Indiana-Biog

Over the Tea Cups—An Hour With Clinton's Old People

1-17-62

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Way back in 1898 a little paper-back booklet was printed with the above title. Information was compiled by William L. Morey from personal interviews with Clinton's oldest residents at that time. A copy of this historically valuable booklet was loaned to me by Mrs. Enid Frist Lemstra of Clinton, who traces her ancestry back to several of the earliest pioneer families in the area.

Mr. Morey began his writing by stating that it was "wonderful almost beyond belief . . . the transformations they have lived to witness; by the span of their lives they connect us of the present, with a remote past, an earlier cruder epoch. By memory's magic glass they bring before our vision the vast unbroken forests, the home of beast and Indian, wild and savage."

Dorothy J. Clark

"They tell us of the tiresome postilion, the slow, plodding tow-boat or jolting stage coach, the pony mail and express, the dangers and hardships endured by the early pioneers. And yet they have lived to see all these conditions dissolve as though but a dream or a tale that is told. They have lived to see almost miracles wrought by the hand of man, the railway, the steamship defying space and distance, the telegraph and telephone, all but outstripping time and bringing together the uttermost parts of the earth, and the whole world converted into one vast whispering gallery."

I'm wondering what Mr. Morey and the old people he interviewed would think of the sixty-four years of progress since his booklet came off the press of the Argus Job Print shop in 1898?

Still an Indian Area.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lee were the first to tell their stories. He was born in Ohio in 1817, moving with his parents to Clinton in the fall of 1830. His wife, formerly Jane C. Davis, was born in Ohio in 1820. She located here in 1824 with her father. Married in 1839, the Lees had nine children. Except for twelve years in Illinois, this couple lived in the Clinton neighborhood, settling here when the locality was an unbroken wilderness abounding in game. They remembered deer being killed on the ground later occupied by the school house. Indians were still living in the area.

The winter of 1830 was very cold with deep snows. Mr. Lee told how his folks lived in a cabin just east of where the Number Three Mine was later located. One end of this cabin was taken up by a huge fireplace, and having doors on the opposite sides, they would hitch up a horse to a big fire log and drag it into the cabin over the puncheon floor, thus making one "firing up" do for the day.

Mrs. Lee told of Benjamin R. Whitcomb opening up the first general store, and of how the late Mrs. John Hamilton carried butter and eggs on horseback to Terre Haute to exchange them for groceries. At that time wages were very low—only $8 a month. Coffee sold for 50 to 75 cents a pound.

The elderly couple explained that from the time of their coming to Clinton until about 1860 the outlet for surplus products was the Wabash River. Flat boats loaded here with pork, hoop-poles and grain for New Orleans.

Mrs. Malinda Stultz, whose maiden name was Clover, was also born in Ohio in 1820. She came to Indiana in 1835. At the age of 15 her parents died, leaving several younger children for her and another older sister and brother to raise. Her first husband, William Reeder, died, leaving her with nine children. In 1855 she married Solomon Stultz who died in 1886, leaving her again a widow.

Mrs. Amy Cunningham was born Amy Buchannan in Ohio in 1820. Her father moved his family in wagons to Putnam county, Indiana, in 1833. The mother died on this arduous five-week trip. In 1840 Amy married Francis Cunningham.

Tended Toll Bridge.

At the close of the Civil War they moved to Vermillion county. Her husband was the toll-keeper at the Clinton bridge for several years. After his death in 1880 Amy lived with her son James, but later moved into a little house built for her.

In her interview she told of cooking in the open fireplace, and of spinning flax and wool. In the absence of flat irons, which were a luxury in the pioneer days, she told of carefully folding her freshly washed clothes, and pressing them by sitting on them while spinning. Necessity was certainly the mother of invention!

A. T. Patterson was born in Ohio in 1816 and moved to Logansport in 1830 where he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1842 he married Sarah Dunbar and ten years later they moved to Terre Haute by way of the Wabash and Erie Canal. Mr. Patterson secured work on the new covered bridge over the Wabash river which was then being built. In 1853 they moved to Clinton where he worked on the covered bridge being built over the river there.

For many years Mr. Patterson worked at wagon-making, carpentering and house-moving with Michael Casey, another old timer of Clinton noted as an early day rough and ready fighter. In later life Mr. Patterson served several years as gate-keeper at the bridge which as a young man he had helped to build.

Thomas Victor was another old-timer of Clinton who was born in Ohio. This was in 1821. When he was six the family moved to Kentucky. As a young man he moved to Logansport, Indiana, for two years, but returned again to Kentucky where he married Elizabeth Eads in 1849. They began housekeeping and stayed until Kentucky was voted out of the Union. He was ordered to leave within five days for having voted against secession. Not stopping to debate the question Thomas improvised a raft from heavy planks and placing his wife upon it, they started to float down the river. To keep out of the water, his wife sat on a trunk and held the baby on her lap.

Dangerous Journey.

Without oars with which to paddle or steer the raft, Mr. Victor hired a man in a skiff to tow them ashore to a bluff. For this he paid him 50 cents, all the money he had. As they continued their flight down stream, they were protected from guerrillas by some Kentucky regulars who

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Clark, Dorothy.

Civil War General Tells Of Parke County Christmas

T.H. Trib-Star 12/24/67.

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Charles A. Husted loaned me a book from his library entitled "Twenty Million Acres" by Barrett Lowe. This 1937 edition concerns the story of America's first conservationist, William Henry Harrison Beadle, a native of Parke County, Indiana, who became a Brigadier General in the Civil War and went on to become an outstanding pioneer citizen of the Dakotas.

William H. H. Beadle was born Jan. 1, 1838, in Parke County. In 1909 General Beadle contributed a series of articles to the Rockville Tribune pertaining to his boyhood and the life in Parke County at that time. In one of these articles he told a rather delightful story of his first important Christmas.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

"In the earliest days of Parke County's settlement, there was little real Christmas. I remember with delight when it began in one home of which the writer was a young member, nearly six years old. That was in 1843, a year of other wonders, for it was the year of Biela's comet.

"One evening when I had been in bed, but not asleep, father and mother were talking about the strange and marvelous visitor that had recently come into the heavens, and fanshaped, spread its lustre from the bright end to the faint and delicate beauty of its edges, so dim that a star shone through. There was little snow on the ground and sky was clear. They were going out to look again at the mysterious object, and I begged the privilege of seeing it too. . . .

"So at last Christmas Eve came and there was somehow a rare light in the sky, and a gentler good feeling. Bed time came early in those days, for why waste light and fuel when daylight would come early enough for all the work there was to be done? Tomorrow was Christmas Day. Mother told me simply what it meant, and led on to a suggestion of St. Nicholas, who was the friend that bore gifts to children. If he were carrying presents to other little people why might not his fleet-footed reindeers bring the magic sleigh even to so remote a region as ours?

Stockings All Hung

"We would do our part and be good boys and girls, and for the first time in our lives hang up our stockings. Strangely, mother and father encouraged the notion in a kindly way. It was quite wonderful to us to invite Santa Claus, and mother helped us hang up the stockings, fastening them to the mantleboard, and we went to bed in the little bedrooms opposite the fireplace, everyone with a purpose to lie awake all night and see St. Nicholas enter. In fact, everyone was soon sound asleep. Awakening early in the morning, we were out quickly to examine our stockings, and lo! In every one or above it on the mantle, were candy and other presents, each suited to the receiver, and even the stockings of mother and father had in them some useful gifts. We were all very happy and our parents laughed with us, and smiled at one another. Christmas had come. . . .

"It happned that father had been East, a few miles beyond Mill Creek, and had brought home a bushel of apples, a rare delicacy in those days, he had brought from a good friend. And too, a wild turkey had been secured, one of the spring hatching, that had grown plump and tender upon its abundant food of beechnuts and acorns. For dinner that day were that turkey, roasted, dressed, cooked to perfection, and steamed apple dumplings. The sauce for the latter was the old-fashioned dip which was cream well sweetened and flavored with cinnamon. Now there has never been in the history of the world any game as fine as the Parke County wild turkey. And the dumplings and dressing have never been surpassed since that day. Of course, there were other good things; we made preserves in those days out of wild crabapples for which they cannnot be equaled.

"Such things, the real Christmas delights, were not all the mode of celebration in those days. There was noise. The Fourth of July does not equal it. Gun powder was burned galore. Firecrackers were inadequate; guns were too feeble. With two inch augers, holes were bored deep into solid oak stumps or into logs that had been hauled up for wood, where a great limb made a gnarled and well knit body. Into such a hole, fifteen inches deep or more, powder was poured, and a great pin was driven in with a maul and this was further fastened, by driving in iron spikes. A little hole or gutter down the side of the pin was poked full of powder, and this was fired by a slow fire."

Sleigh Rides Popular

"The neighbors for over a mile around were thus advised that we were celebrating Christmas. If there was snow the sleds were out, especially our make, shafts and runners alike of two hickory poles with small posts running up to a six inch body that turned up like a neck at the front end, on top of which was fixed a deer's head and horns and other decorations. With a sheepskin saddle and a fast nag hitched ahead, the young 'bucks' drove about the neighborhood and called upon the girls and other friends.

"It was a free holiday for all, and in these or other ways everybody enjoyed it. Still it was the rule to 'keep school" on Christmas, if it came on a school day, and the demand was that the teacher, a man in those days, should 'treat' apples or nuts or refreshments. If he refused, the aim was to lock him out in the morning, and he sought to defeat all such schemes, even scaling the roof of the school house, putting feathers, tar, and other stuff down the chimney and covering to close the top to smoke out the boys, in which he was often successful . . .

"Neighbor visited neighbor, and talked about the then old times. Marriages were sometimes celebrated on Christmas. It was a day of social merriment, and in the towns, dances were held on Christmas Eve or night. It was usually decently kept even if sometimes rudely. Only a few gave the day to drinking. It was loud, noisy and jolly, and a trifle coarse, but withal a day of good feeling.

"Such was my first real Christmas, Halley's comet coming toward us at a million miles a day has no terrors for me now because Biela's comet of 1843 brought joy and blessing. So may every Christmas bring happiness to every child!"

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Ind. Archeology

Merom Mounds Produce Many Ethnic Speculations

Trib-Star 6-29-69

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Over the years the Mounds at Merom have been thoroughly investigated and described by many different scientists. These interesting works have yielded a number of skulls which formed the basis of certain ethnic speculations as to the character of the Mound Builders.

The area was described as: "The fort is situated on a plateau of Loess, about 120 feet in height above low water, on the east bank of the Wabash River.

"On the river side, the bank, which principally consists of an outcrop of sandstone, is very steep, and from the western line of the fortification, while deep ravines add to its strength on the other side; the weak points being strengthened by earthworks. The general course of the work is from the north, where it is very narrow, not over 50 feet, owing to the formation of the plateau, south along the river bank about 725 feet to its widest portion, which is here about 375 feet east and west.

"The bank traversed by the entrance road is here much wider than at other portions, and along its outer wall, running eastward, are the remains of what was evidently once a deep ditch. The outer wall is about 30 feet wide, and is now about 1½ feet high . . .

Dorothy Clark

"From the northeastern corner of this wide wall the line continues northwesterly about 350 feet, along the easern ravine, to a point where there is a spring, and the ravine makes an indenture of nearly 100 feet to the southwest . . .

"There is thus a continual line, in part natural and in part artificial, which, if measured in all its little ins and outs, would not be far from 2,450 feet . . . Looking at all the natural advantages offered by this location, it is the one spot of the region, for several miles along the river, that would be selected today for the erection of a fortification in the vicinity . . .

"On crossing the outer wall, a few low mounds are at once noticed, and all around are seen large, circular depressions. At the southern portion of the fort, these depressions, of which there are 45 in all, are most numerous, 37 being located on the northern side of the indenture of the eastern ravine.

"These depressions vary in width from 10 to 25 or 30 feet, and are irregularly arranged. One of the six depressions opposite the indenture of the eastern ravine is oval in shape, and is the only one that is not nearly circular, the others varying but a foot or two in diameter.

"Two of these depressions were dug into, and it was found that they were evidently once large pits that had gradually been filled by the hand of time with the accumulation of vegetable matter and soil that had been deposited by natural action alone. In some instances large trees are now growing in the pits, and their many roots make digging difficult.

Skeletons Found

"A trench was dug across one pit, throwing out the soil carefully until the former bottom was reached at a depth of about five feet. On this bottom, ashes and burnt clay gave evidence of an ancient fire. At a few feet on one side, several pieces of pottery, a few bones of animals, and one stone arrow-head were found. A spot had evidently been struck where food had been cooked and eaten. The conclusion was drawn that these pits were the houses of the inhabitants or defenders of the fort, who were probably further protected from the elements and the arrows of assailants by a roof of logs and bark or boughs.

Human skeletons, several bones of animals, principally of deer, bear, opossum and turtles; fragments of pottery, arrow-heads, flint chips and a number of thick shells of "unios," two of which had been bored near the hinge, were discovered.

Other diggings in the area discovered skeletons buried in rough stone coffins which indicated that two distinct races occupied the territory successively.

On the west side of the Wabash River a few miles up the river from Merom, near Hutsonville, Ill., in Crawford County, a group of mounds were investigated.

A group of 59 mounds are included in an area one thousand feet from east to west and some one thousand, five hundred feet from the river south.

The mounds vary in size from 14 to 18 feet, to 45 or 50 feet in diameter, and are now from a foot and a half to five feet in height, though probably much high originally.

No human remains were found in any of the mounds that were dug into, and their age has not been determined, up to this time.

Who were the Mound Builders who reared these mysterious structures? No one has ever answered that question satisfactorily. The human skeletons that have been found were buried with the legs bent. Those found in the rude stone coffins were also buried in that position, and placed so they would face the rising sun.

Following the Mount Builders, and supposed by some to have been their conquerors, came the red Indians, the next occupants of this Wabash country.

"As some lone wanderer o'er this weary world
Oft sits him down beneath some friendly shade,
And backward casts a long and lingering look
O'er the rough journey he has thus far made,
So should we pause——"

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AP Newsfeatures

Dorothy J. Clark
7-30-70
T.H. Trib-Star

Clinton History Found In Clipping Scrapbook

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

From the estate of the late Mary Grimes came a clipping scrapbook to the Historical Museum collection. The earliest date found in the scrapbook was this entry on the first page: "Lizzie Allen, Clinton, Dec. 12, 1881." Following this was a list of 137 eighth grade pupils from the first through the eighteenth districts who were ready to attend high school.

The account of her wedding in the newspaper ARGUS was carefully clipped and pasted in the book. "Grimes-Allen. The social circles of our town were rippled from center to circumference this week by the long expected marriage of Mr. Geo. R. Grimes of Terre Haute and Miss Lizzie B. Allen. On Tuesday evening the Presbyterian church was filled to overflowing by invited guests. The room had been tastefully decorated by Wilhelmine Anstead, Maggie McDougal and Fannie Merril. Festoons of evergreen hung in profusion about the pulpit stand, while choicer plants relieved their sombre beauty. An evergreen strand, suspended across the room, from the center of which hung a large bell."

"At 8 o'clock the couple entered the room and marched up the aisle to Mendelsohn's Wedding March, as it was played upon the organ by James L. Pringle. Arriving at the bell they were met by Elder Buckels of this District, who performed the most beautiful ceremony that we have ever witnessed. As they turned to depart the organist played a beautiful selection from Tannhauser. The audience dispersed and a large number of friends and relatives repaired to the residence of the bride, where a very pleasant reception was given."

"The hours flew by in the joy of the occasion. A delicious supper was served, after which the musicians present rendered some beautiful selections, both vocal and instrumental. The bride favored the guests with a lovely solo, the chorus parts being sung by the Union Church choir. At a late hour the guests took their departure for their homes, except a few who remained to see the bridal party leave on the early train for Portsmouth, Ohio."

DOROTHY J. CLARK

"The bride presented a lovely appearance. She was attired in a dress made of Paris muslin, with long train, trimmed about the skirt with Oriental lace. In her hair she wore a knot of orange blossoms, and a spray of the same at her threat. She wore white kid slippers and gloves. A white tulle bridal veil fell gracefully over her head and shoulders. The groom wore a neat fitting suit of plain, dark material, white kid gloves, a secretary' collar, and neat tie. Neither of them wore jewelry."

"The following were guests from abroad: Capt. A. B. Fitch and wife, Al Grimes and Miss Docia Smith from Terre Haute; Mr. Hereford and wife from Portsmouth, Ohio; Miss Meda Mack from Summit Grove, and Mr. Miller of Iowa."

Wedding Gifts

It was the custom in those days to list the wedding presents and their donors: silver butter dish and knife, R. T. Wishard and J. C. Crane; elegant toilette set, Meda Mack and Anna Walker of Summit Grove; oil painting, Mrs. J. L. Pringle; hand-painted fan and handkerchief, Mr. and Mrs. Fitch; elegant copy of "Gems of English Song," J. L. Pringle; pair elegant vases, Mr. and Mrs. Hereford; silver butter dish, Bell Anderson and Maggie McDougal; wine set, Miss Lou Grimes; diamond cuff buttons and breast pin, Al Grimes; lace bed set, White family; set of silver teaspoons by mail, an unknown; set silver tablespoons, R. Allen; set silver teaspons, George A. Crabb and wife; the bridal cake, Mrs. H. B. Dudley; pair towels, Docia Smith; silver card receiver, A. L. Whitcomb and wife; pair towels, Rachel Carpenter, and last, but not least, a handsome berry dish from the Union Church choir."

An obituary was next of one of the bride's friends, "Wilhelmine Anstead, born Feb. 8, 1857 in Guelp, Canada; died March 15, 1885, Clinton, Ind.'

Another obituary was for George S. Borgman, twin brother of John, who died at the home of his parents, the Frank J. Borgmans on South High Street on March 28, 1885.

One clipping told of the

Continued On Page 6, Col. 1.

Community Affairs File

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Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

death at Summit Grove of Cephas Mack, former resident of Clinton, once proprietor of the Clinton Hotel. He was born in Deerfield, Mass, in 1810, and lived to be over three score and ten. He came west in early life, locating near Worthington, Ind. and from there to Helt's Prairie. Here he married Zirilda Jordan and fathered a large family.

Not all Lizzie's friends died. Some married and she clipped and pasted those notices in her scrapbook. "Mr. Florence E. White married Mrs. Mary Crabb at the residence of W. G. Crab. The infair dinner was served at the home of the groom's father, Anderson White, who had lived about three miles north of Clinton for over sixty years.'

"Mr. H. E. Hurford married Miss Blanche M. Grimes, youngest daughter of the late Grimes. at the All Saints' Episcopal Church. Their attendants were Frank Kinsey of Cincinnati and the bride's sister Stella M. Grimes."

Quite a bit of local genealogy is to be found in Lizzie's scrapbook. I learned that Naomi Wright, born 1816, in Canandague, Ontario county, New York, came to Indiana with her father in 1819. She married Elijah Johnson in 1832 and he died in 1837. One year later she married Aquilla Nebeker who died in 1880, and she died one year later, both aged 65. A native of Delaware, Mr. Negeker moved to Clinton in 1837.

Lieut. Thomas H. Allen kept a grocery store at the corner of Main and Vine streets in Clinton. He was born in Ohio in 1820, came to Clinton and was adopted by Anderso White and grew up as a member of that family. In 1855 he married Miss Louisa White and settled in Clinton in 1859. During the Civil War he enlisted in the 23rd Indiana Infantry and was promoted to lieutenant. His second wife, Mariah L. Allen, died in 1874, leaving him with six children. Thomas died in 1897.

Grimes Family Tree

The Grimes family tree was explained in an obituary. James Grimes married Mary A. Tobin in 1835 in Pittsburgh. They moved to Portsmouth, Ohio, and had ten children. Miss Zella lived in Clinton. Amelia Grimes Fitch and George lived in Terre Haute.

George R. Grimes, his wife Elizabeth and their children, Mary Louise, Allen and George Rollin lived at Sixth and Washington streets. The last-named Rollin Grimes married in 1915, Miss Elizabeth Carey of New York, a well-known talented ballroom interpretive danseuse, successfully engaged in furnishing programs for social entertainments.

Rollin was well remembered for his beautiful tenor voice when he sang for a number of years in the vested choir at St. Stephen's Episcopal church. For several years before his marriage he had been doing opera work and just concluded a successful season as the leading man opposite Eva Tanguay in 'The Girl Who Smiles."

From the Golden Wedding announcement of James Anderson White and his wife nee Martha Elder, more local history was learned. James A. White was born in 1806, near Knoxville, Tenn. At the age of ten his parents brought him to Fountain County, Indiana, where he became an Indiana pioneer farmer and met his future wife at a country dance. Martha Elder was born in Pennsylvania in 1812, and her parents brought her to Butler County, Ohio when she was two years old. Twelve years later the family removed to Fountain County, Ind., where she was married in 1831. They had six sons and one daughter.

Old clipping scrapbooks, diaries, day books, letters, etc. are the most valuable source of local history and genealogy. The writer is always interested in reading them, copying them, or acquiring them for the Historical Museum if there is no one left in a family to cherish them and preserve them.

Long Dedication Ceremony At Rockville in 1882

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

FEB 20 1972

As in all new counties, rivalry developed in the selection of a county seat for Parke County, established in 1821. The commissioners appointed to make the selection were Gen. Joseph Orr, Gen. Arthur Patterson and Col. Thomas Smith, the well-known Indiana agent.

This commission was impressed with the Buchanan vicinity near the present town of Judson, but were urged to visit Thomas Gilkeson's place on the Raccoon before deciding.

They also visited Andrew Ray's tavern in what is now Rockville on a dark, gloomy morning early in February, 1824. Arriving there wet, weary and miserably fatigued, they were royally entertained by Mr. Ray, the landlord.

After a good night's rest, a steaming breakfast and much persuasion by offers of free land and sums of money, the county seat of Parke county was located at Rockville. To seal the act a bottle of aged whisky was properly emptied and the bottle broken on the big rock on the highest point of the site. Thus was the town-to-be, the county seat of Rockville, legally baptized.

The temporary seat of county government, however, had been at Roseville first, and next at Armiesburg where at least two courts had been held. At one time there was a threat that it would be set at Bloomingdale.

Parke county's first court house was the rude, but good-sized log structure finished in June, 1826, which served until 1829. Built on the south side of the present public square, it served a double use of house of worship and temple of justice (church and state were allowed to function together in those early days) until it was replaced by the brick courthouse.

In 1829 a contract was let to Matthew Stewart, against much opposition, to build the brick courthouse completed in 1832. It served the county until 1879 when it was torn down by Isaac McFaddin.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The cornerstone of the present courthouse was laid Sept. 11, 1879. The dates found over the north entrance are in error. The building was completed in 1882, not 1880. Contractor Myers must have erred in his timetable, and the stone carving was allowed to remain.

Howard McFaddin, Rockville attorney, presented the Historical Museum with a copy of THE ROCKVILLE REPUBLICAN dated March 1, 1882, Vol. XXVIV, No. 24. Published every Wednesday by J. W. Brown, Editor, this issue carried the front page story "Court House Dedication."

Dedication Feb. 22

According to the newspaper there was a large attendance, a good time, good speeches, and plenty of them. The Hon. Thomas N. Rice's speech was published in its entirety and took up most of the newspaper. He commented that George Washington's birthday, on the 22nd of February, was particularly appropriate for the dedication of a building erected to justice and the

Continued On Page 7, Col. 1.

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

transaction of public business in Parke County.

Expounding on the theme "We have a goodly heritage," Rice told of the steady progress for sixty years since the county's organization in 1821. He told of the first Circuit Court held in Samuel Blair's log cabin in Roseville.

Many citizens of that day felt the old courthouse was adequate and fought the building of the new one. The plans of the architectural firm of Thomas J. Tolan & Son, of Fort Wayne, were chosen from the fifteen sets of plans submitted.

County Commissioners Byers, Carmichael and Marshall insisted that the foundations should be constructed of solid blocks of stone hewn from Parke County quarries.

County Commissioners Brown, Collings and Mater who opposed the building at the time of its inception, received the half-finished structure from the hands of the outgoing board and carried it forward to completion.

Carpenters and skilled wood workers who helped build the courthouse were James and A. J. East, Smith, Back, Turner and Patton. George W. Collings was appointed agent for the county to see the job through after the contractor quit. At the dedication, the building had already cost over $100,000 and all the bills were not in yet. The contract for the clock and bell was to cost $1,450, and the walks were to be done by the square foot in the early spring.

In spite of rain, mud and bad weather, the dedication of the new Parke County Courthouse drew a large crowd of people. Camerone's String Band, of Indianapolis, fur-

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Community Affairs File

nished music and the audience joined in singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Rev. W. Y. Allen read the Ten Commandments and offered prayer. After music by the band, the Hon. Thomas N. Rice delivered his lengthy address after which the crowd adjourned for lunch until two o'clock.

In the afternoon the audience heard G. W. Collings make a statement as to the cost of the building. This was followed by an interesting paper by D. H. Maxwell giving sketches of all the early lawyers and judges of Parke County. Then each county officer gave a brief history of his office and the list of his predecessors.

Several more speeches followed before the afternoon session adjourned for dinner until seven o'clock when the court room was packed to hear more speeches. Finally the audience dispersed, and the young folks "eager for the fray" inaugurated a dance, and "tripped the light fantastic" until "after the turn of the night" which we suppose meant daybreak?

Visitors to the annual Covered Bridge Festivals in Rockville can testify that the ninety-year-old courthouse is still standing in good order in spite of the lengthy speechmaking at its dedication ceremony.

Also Clark, Dorothy

AP Newsfeatures

Ts NOV 1 9 1972

Peach Brandy Said to Be Near Sullivan Cottonwood

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

On the north side of the county road running east and west about half mile northwest of the present Rose Chapel Church, three and one-half miles southwest of New Lebanon, Ind., three and one-half miles east of the Wabash River, eight miles southwest of Sullivan, and 35 miles due south of Terre Haute, there once stood a huge Balsam Cottonwood tree. Over eight feet in diameter and 175 feet tall, this old tree was witness to all the stirring historical events that took place within its shadow when it stood at the east gate of the immense stockade that surrounded historic Half-Way Fort, a fort that was reported to have been four times larger than old Fort Harrison north of Terre Haute.

In 1787, the year the Constitution of the United States was adopted, some brandy was made from peaches that grew in an orchard in the Delaware River Valley near Philadelphia, Pa., where the Constitutional Convention was held. This rare old peach brandy, now nearly two centries old, has been known as "Constitutional Brandy".

During the Fall of 1816, Elisha Boudinot, of New Jersey, purchased four barrels of this peach brandy from Hezekiah Griggs, a farmer and peach orchardist. The brandy had been kept in an underground cellar on the Griggs farm and at the time of purchase was 29 years old, 140 proof, by test, and of exquisite and delicate flavor.

The four barrels of bandy, each containing 50 gallons, together with other goods consigned to Elisha Boudinot, were loaded from the wharf at Philadelphia on the Delaware River in a sailing vessel bound for New Orleans. After arrival at that port they were sent by flat boat up the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash rivers to Bristol, then a thriving river town on the Illinois side of the Wabash River, opposite Point Coupee, Ind.

Elisha Boudinot arrived in Sullivan County on Gill's Prairie in August of 1817, where he purchased the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 10 West, a tract of 160 acres. Later additional tracts of adjoining land were purchased until holdings totaled nearly 600 acres.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The shipment of goods by water, including the four barrels of rare old brandy, arrived at Bristol, good condition. From there the goods were hauled by ox team over the river ford formed by an exposed vein of coal across the Wabash River (now all washed away) to Point Coupee, and from this point over the old military road to his house. The four barrels of brandy were placed in a cellar.

A short time later, two barrels of this brandy were carefully removed from the cellar and taken to a place in the woods, and methodically buried. First, a huge hole was dug in the ground and heavy oak timbers, eighteen inches in diameter, were laid on rock supports. On this foundation heavy oak upright posts, twelve inches square, were set. The two barrels of brandy were then set inside this cault, with a row of twelve inch posts between them. The top was then closed by first laying two inch thick oak planks across the same, followed by a layer of twelve inch square oak posts, placed cross-wise with the planks. A second layer of two inch oak planks were laid cross-wise with these twelve inch square posts. In the center of the roof, just over the middle row of upright posts were laid five flat stones in a circular formation with the fifth stone forming the center thereof.

On the under side of this fifth stone was chiseled the dates 1787 and 1817, the dates the brandy was made and buried. On the top of each barrel is a small square lead plate with the words "Peach Brandy made in the Delaware River Valley, in 1787, the property of Elisha Boudinot." The five flat rocks were covered with about two feet of earth which was thought at that time to be forever out of reach of plow depth. Trees were then felled across the spot to cover up all signs of the burial. Within a few years time the spot was completely covered with a dense growth of briars, grass, underbrush and small trees. The two barrels of brandy so deposited were to be held in reserve in case it should be needed in the future. The other two barrels remained in the cellar where supplies could be drawn as needed to combat malarial fever so prevalent in the Wabash Valley at that early date.

Elisha Boudinot paid five dollars per barrel. The four barrels, each containing 50 gallons, cost him 20 dollars, or ten cents per gallon, and it cost him about $2.50 per barrel, or five cents per gallon to transport the brandy out to Gill's Prairie. The entire purchase cost him 50 dollars or 15 cents per gallon.

The two barrels stored in the Boudinot cellar lasted for many years, long after the death of Elisha in 1827. John Boudinot Sr. still had some of it at the time of his death in Terre Haute in 1846. Knowledge of the exact spot where the reserve brandy was buried died with Elisha Boudinot. However, it is known to be somewhere within a half mile radius of the historic cottonwood tree which was still standing 30 years ago near Rose Chapel, Gill Township, Sullivan County.

The five flat stones were scraped and uncovered by Wid Thompson, brother of Dave Thompson, many years ago when he was ploughing in a field, but at that time no particular attention was given to them and they were covered over in the process of ploughing and as a result the place remained lost.

Community Affairs File

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Valuable If Found

The two barrels of Constitutional Brandy are of great value now if they could be found. The brandy is 185 years old, and it has not seen the light of day since it was buried 155 years ago. The barrels were described as made of heavy oak with heavy wrought iron bands. The fine craftsmanship and lumber used in those early days assures the possibility they are still in a perfect state of preservation including the contents greatly improved by the long process of aging. It's probably worth more by the ounce than old Elisha Boudinot paid for the whole shipment!

Also, within less than a one mile radius of the Cottonwood tree, two thousand dollars in gold coins was buried in 1839 by one of the early settlers of that locality. There were no banks in the county then and the sum was too heavy to carry around with him in a money belt, so the settler decided to bury it. He intended to buy additional land with the money as soon as he could select the tracts he wanted, but he suffered a paralytic stroke and died before he could tell his sons where the coins were buried. To this day, they have never been found although several generations of the family have searched for them.

Another cache of $20.000 in gold coins were buried in 1863 by Landon Dodd Sr. just south of the Cottonwood Tree near the Dodd Bridge in Sullivan County.

These three lost burials—the brandy and the gold coins—probably make up the greatest treasure trove in the State of Indiana if all three of them could now be located and recovered intact. Good hunting! And remember who told you where to look!

AP Newsfeatures

Ts NOV 2 6 1972

Early Cemetery Tells Much Sullivan History

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Last week's column told of the journey from the Delaware Valley out to Gill's Prairie, Sullivan County, Indiana, made by Elisha Boudinot and his family. His name is also spelled Elihu or Elias. He and his brother John were sons of the Hon. Elias Boudinot of Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, who was a member of the first Congress of the United States in 1789. He was one of the committee appointed to receive President George Washington when he was inaugurated on April 30, 1789, in New York City. Later this man was appointed the first Director of the U.S. Mint by President Washington. Two sons of this noted figure are buried in Sullivan County.

John Boudinot Jr. was Postmaster at the State House Tavern in Sullivan when the news of the "Forty-Niner" gold rush was first received in a newspaper from the Atlantic seaboard early in the spring of 1849.

Among the 50 or 60 early historic cemeteries in Sullivan County is the Boudinot (pronounced Boo-da-no) Cemetery, located along the route of the main Tippecanoe Indian Trail, about half way between the present Rose Chapel Church and the site of the historic Cottonwood Tree. The present county road runs about one-fourth mile east of it.

The exact survey location is near the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 7 North, Range 10 West, in Gill Township, Sullivan County, Ind. This land is the 160 acre tract originally purchased from the government by Elisha Boudinot on Aug. 26, 1817.

His son, John Boudinot Sr., later came into possession of this land and he died at Terre Haute in 1846 and was buried in the cemetery in a field southwest of New Lebanon on the former Phegley farm. His grave was marked with a headstone inscribed: "John Boudinot, born in New Jersey in March 20, 1768, and died Sept. 6, 1846, aged 79 years." This is the only headstone now left standing in this cemetery, but the carving has weathered so badly the inscription is illegible.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

After his death a deed dated 1858 was made for all his lands located in Sullivan County including the cemetery described as "one-half acre known as the Old Grave Yard."

The first burial, said to have been made at this particular place, was made during corn planting time in the latter part of April or early in May of 1811. A mounted scout was making his way from the boat landing at Point Coupee, a pioneer fort up the Tecumseh Indian Trail, to the place where it formed a junction with the main Tippecanoe Indian Trail, near the old Cottonwood Tree. He was en route to the Gill Blockhouse.

William Gill, Stephen Campbell, William Berry and John Bogard were the only settlers in this locality at that time.

The scout had just crossed the narrow strip of marshland along the Tecumseh Trail and

Continued On Page 5, Col. 1.

had descended the slope north of this marsh when he was fired upon by Indians and fell dead off his horse. The Indians rushed up and scalped him, stole his horse, and made their escape back down the trail to the boat landing, where they crossed the Wabash river over the ford furnished by the exposed vein of coal.

The settlers planting corn in their fields near the Gill Blockhouse heard the shots, and found the body of the scout lying beside the trail near the crest of the ridge north of the Rose Branch Creek.

A grave was immediately dug on a nearby knoll east of the Tecumseh Trail where the Boudinot Cemetery was later located and was the first burial there.

The expedition of General William Henry Harrison, during the Tippecanoe Campaign, did not pass this place until the following September of 1811, and the Half-Way Fort and other fortifications included in that system of military defenses were not erected until the spring of 1812.

Half-Way Fort was built first and occupied as a military base from the spring of 1812 until the fall of 1814. Many deaths occurred and they were all buried on the same knoll where this scout had been buried.

Pickles Cause Death

After Elisha Boudinot purchased land from the government in 1817, he fenced off this plot of ground and officially made it a cemetery.

When he and his wife Elizabeth died in December, 1827, they were buried there as well as their children and other relatives. The Vincennes newspaper "Western Sun" gave the cause of death as "eating pickles made in a copper kettle with strong vinegar." Vincennes had been their home before coming to Sullivan County. Until about 1905 the Boudinot Cemetery was still fenced and located at the west edge of a large woods. Many large second-growth trees were scattered through the cemetery and at least five or six headstones

Community Affairs File

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were still standing with several others lying on the ground.

Since that time the large woods and the trees in the cemetery have been cut down and that part of the northwest corner of the "Old Graveyard" where the lone headstone of John Boudinot stands is now the corner of a large triangular-shaped field.

The driveway, "to and from the cemetery" as reserved in the deed, is now a dense growth of underbrush and second-growth trees. This driveway was about 30 feet wide and ran due north and south along the dividing line between Sections 34 and 35. When the Vincennes and Terre Haute Stage Road was built, its course was about one-fourth mile east of the Boudinot Cemetery.

Just recently Samuel M. Andrews of Merom, Ind., contacted me for information about this historical graveyard. A member of the Sullivan County Cemetery Commission, Mr. Andrews was concerned about the uncared-for grave of John Boudinot in a fence row, the tombstone so worn the inscription is now illegible. He needed proof that the burial took place before 1850 so his Commission coult take action. A great-great-grandson, Allen Merrill, of Terre Haute was located and the pioneer burial spot and forgotten cemetery is being cared for again.

Clark, Dorothy J.

Lewis Township History Told in 1916 Pamphlet

Township History (Clay Co.)

Ts MAR 1 8 1973
Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Back in 1916 a history of Lewis township, Clay County, Indiana, written by the teachers and students of the Lewis township schools and compiled by Miss Eunice Asbury, was published in pamphlet form by the Brazil News Democrat.

An effort of the Centennial of the State of Indiana, the 110-page booklet was dedicated to "those pioneers who came to our township when it was a wilderness and braved the hardships of life at that time, in order to establish homes here . . ."

Included in the booklet were photographs of the Coalmont High School; Centennial Mills (also called Neal's Mill) built in 1876 as a summer resort in the north part of the township; Old Hill Bridge crossing Eel river on the line between Perry and Lewis townships; Kossuth Bluffs, one-half mile south of Neal's Mill on Rock Road; and Friendly Grove church.

Lewis township, located in the southwest part of Clay county and originally part of Harrison township, was formed in 1835 and named for John Lewis, an early settler. In 1850 the population was 574, in 1900 2,140, and nearly 3,000 when the booklet was published.

Lewis township is drained by Eel River and the six creeks which empty into it. For some thirty years after 1835 when the township was formed, Eel River had no bridges and was crossed either by ford or ferry. The first bridge across Eel River was built in 1876 at Hooker's Point on the Kossuth Road. In 1881 the first iron bridge was put up at New Brunswick.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The only lake in the township is Muir's Lake, about a half a mile east of Howesville. Part of the old bed of Eel river and very deep in places, the lake was named for William Muir who owned the land bordering it. Many years ago the lake was noted as a pleasure resort and a large boat owned by Robert Jordan took passengers on boat rides.

About ten miles of the old Wabash and Erie Canal went through Lewis township. Constructed between 1847 and 1850 it was built deep enough to carry five or six feet of water. The part of this canal lying between the Wabash river at Terre Haute and White river at Worthington was built by the State of Indiana and was known as the Cross Cut Canal. The water supply for the canal came from Eel river by means of feeder dams and from reservoirs—one of which was the Splunge Creek Reservoir.

It is thought that there were two locks in this part of the canal, the Kossuth near Kossuth Bluffs and Gallagher Locks about three miles farther south. The canal was used for ten years from 1851 to 1861 and was never of as great benefit to the community as was anticipated for the railroads began operation soon after the canal was completed.

Many of the men living in Lewis Township at the time the canal was constructed were hired to help dig it. With the wages received for this work some were able to pay for farms or to make improvements or pay off debts.

A story is told of a boy living at Terre Haute who wished to go to Worthington on the canal boat. The captain told the boy he might pay his way by driving the mule that pulled the boat. This he did, and when he reached Worthington, he said: "I would have walked if it had not been for the name of riding on a canal boat."

Settlement began in Lewis Township in 1821 when Peter Cooprider settled on the west bank of Eel river at Kossuth Bluff. The same year William Shepherd settled near Sandy Knoll. Jacob Cooprider, Sr. came about the same time, and John Cooprider, son of Peter, entered land in Section 4 in 1821.

In the winter of 1821 and 1822, Noah Deloy, John Mayfield and James Cross settled on Eel river but did not stay long.

Robert Baber, James Briley (whose son Absalom was the first white child born in the township), and Elijah Rawley were early settlers. A little later Peter Stark, Daniel Goble and Edward Braden arrived.

In 1830 came the Puckett family—David, Elihu, Sr., Joseph and Lewis. About the same year Joseph T. Liston, Samuel Chambers, Peter Stout, George Hooker and John Lanning settled in the central part. Other old settlers were John Poe, Nicholas Crist, Sr., Joseph Sanders, John Stewart, James Buckalew, Joseph Whiles, John Edmonson, Thomas Fires, James Scotchfield, Henry Crist Sr., Elijah Stout, D. J. Payne, John Chambers, Marshall Chambers, Samuel Stout, Thomas Stewart, George Buell, J. P. Dunn, Hamilton Sanders, Richard North, Thomas Phipps, Baptist Mattox, Rodney Taylor, Amos Duncan, Sr., and John Gambill.

(over)

Some of the early churches organized before 1900 in Lewis Township were: Friendly Grove Missionary Baptist in 1839, with building erected 1841; Union Christian organized 1842, building 1845; Little Flock Primitive Baptist in 1851; Howesville Presbyterian, 1867; White Oak Grove Methodist in 1842, building 1845; Fairview Winebrennarian church first organized as Presbyterian in 1869; Wilson General Baptist, and Briley Chapel.

In 1898 John R. Walsh purchased the Bedford Stone Quarries and took over the E. & R. Railroad (naming it the Southern Indiana) to obtain an outlet for his stone. The next year he extended the line from Elnora to Terre Haute, some 47 miles to connect coal fields of Greene, Sullivan and Clay counties with Terre Haute. Soon 32 coal mines were located in this area. Little towns sprang up and flourished all along the line bringing several years of prosperity to the area.

Some of the mines listed included Bogle, Big Vein and Golden Knob. Coalmont, the largest village in Lewis Township, was platted in 1900.

Evidences of Indian occupancy were found at the ancient mound called Sandy Knoll at Howesville. All the skeletons discovered were seven feet tall. Other evidences of Mound builders were found along Eel river.

It has been reported that the township booklets were published for each township in Clay County before 1916, Indiana's Centennial Year. If anyone has knowledge of any other of these little histories please contact the writer Lewis Township history can be used at the Historical Museum's library.

Clark, D. J.

Early Shaker Settlement On Busseron Creek

Community Affairs File

Ts OCT 21 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Indiana has had, and still has, many communities dominated by religious sects, but none of them teemed with more romantic interest than the Shaker colony, long since vanished, on the border of Sullivan and Knox counties.

The Shakers settled along Busseron creek, in fertile prairie country, long before Indiana was admitted to the Union. Some of their descendants still live in this section of the Wabash Valley.

The Shakers first settled in this place in 1805. Elders from the New York colony had moved westward through Ohio and into Kentucky where they obtained numerous converts to their religion. A group of converts then traveled west into Indiana Territory, and finding the soil near the village of Scottsville, Sullivan county to their liking, settled there. They called the new Shaker settlement, West Union, probably deriving the name from Union colony in Ohio.

David Thomas, a traveler who visited the Shakers in 1816, described Shaker Town as a settlement of eight or ten houses of hewn logs, situated on a ridge west of the Wabash bayou about 18 miles above Vincennes. He estimated there were 200 inhabitants living in four families. Marriage was prohibited in the Shaker sect.

According to Thomas, "From dancing, an act of devotion, their name is derived. Like several other sects they conform to great plainness in apparel and their garb is unusual. In language they also are quite distinguishable. It appears that all complimentary phrases are discarded; they never use the second person singular in conversation, or say yes or no, substituting yea or nay."

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Thomas told of their honesty, their estate of 1,300 acres, the mills, carding machines, their crops of wheat, indigo, cotton and how they procured water from a well between 20 and 30 feet deep.

Thomas also noted that the Shakers operated a distillery and a grist mill on Busseron creek. They raised and shipped a great deal of grain and produce for the New Orleans market, shipping it by flat boat out of Busseron creek into the Wabash river and southward. They later built a road to the river and took their produce to the flat boats by wagon.

Since marriage was forbidden, the Shakers lived in separate sex units, the men occupying one section and the women another. They occupied different sections of the church during worship. After they had assembled they would sit in silent meditation for a long time. Then, as the spirit moved them, they were swept with a violent trembling and expressed the indignation of God against sin. At other times the spirit moved them to sing and shout, and the brethren would pass back and forth, "sometimes as though swept by a mighty wind." From these exercises they became known as Shakers.

One of the descendants of the Busseron Shaker colony was "Uncle Johnny" Jenkins who told many interesting stories of life in the strange community. He was one-year-old when his parents moved into the settlement and became part of the colony's life.

When Jenkins was 18 years old he, with his sister Martha, ran away from the colony, refusing to live up to its religious exactions. Martha, to show that she had rejected the faith, hung her quaint Shaker bonnet on a tree limb and left it there.

Martha and John made their way to South Carolina where they lived with an uncle. In 1835 Martha returned to Carlisle, Ind. to make her home with her sister Mrs. Catherine Ledgerwood. In 1840 she married John Martin, a tailor, and lived until 1891. After the death of her own child, she adopted her brother John's child, Eliza Jenkins.

The first community house of the Shakers was three-stories high and served both as a home and a church. Of unusual construction, it was thought to have been built of logs. Wreckers found a wall of bricks between two layers of timbers.

Each wall contained 15 windows with small panes, a total of 60 in the structure. There were 25 rooms and three large halls. In the basement were the dungeons, one for males, the other for females. Here the refractory Shakers were sent for meditation and prayers. This building was used until 1821 when they built the brick church that was razed in 1882. The bricks were used in the construction of the country of J. H. E. Sprinkle in Shaker Prairie.

The Shaker colony passed out of existence in 1835, and the few remaining members joined other colonies.

In 1836 Henry Sprinkle of Maryland bought the property, and in 1845 his son came to Indiana and occupied the Shaker house. His sister Matilda Sprinkle Bowen lived in the old church for many years and her daughter grew up and played there until she left to attend school at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. All that remains to tell the story of the old Shaker colony is the brick in the Sprinkle homestead.

The town of Busseron, first named Indiana, was laid out by James B. McCall and James Dunkin and first advertised in 1815. It was located on the north end of Busseron prairie, twenty miles north of Vincennes, two miles from the Shaker settlement, one mile from Busseron creek and three miles from the Wabash river.

Later the town was called Dunkintown. Other places in the area that took much researching were Snapp's Prairie, Scottsville and Gill's Prairie.

The Knox and Sullivan county histories both tell about the Shakers, but their stories do not agree. One account tells that the first Shaker house was built in 1809 on land owned by Robert Gill. The Indian troubles, which grew alarmingly in 1811, put the Shakers to flight, and they proceeded overland to Kentucky with their stock and 150 wagons, leaving the lands and property

THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE H

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unprotected. In 1813 they returned. Since the Sullivan county courthouse burned in 1849, it is difficult to trace the boundaries of the first Shaker settlement. The second settlement is more easily defined.

Copy to ERA for Genealogy
Community Affairs File

Much History of Carlisle Told in Sproatt Booklet

OCT 20 1974

BY DOROTHY J. CLARK

A little booklet, "Fifty Years and Then Some with the Sproatts", tells a good bit of history of Carlisle, Ind. Given by John G. Jenkins of Maryland, whose 84-year-old father still lived in Carlisle (in 1973), the booklet has been placed in the library reference files of the Vigo County Historical Society at the Museum.

According to the booklet, James Franklin Sproatt was born in 1857 at Carlisle, or near it, on the old Sproatt homestead on the Freelandville Road. He was one of the fifteen children of John and Eliza (Minich) Sproatt. When he was a small boy, the family moved to a farm opposite the C. & E. I. depot.

When he grew up, Mr. Sproatt had a harness and buggy shop where he worked until his death in 1940. He married Anna E. Brunger whose family had come to the Carlisle-Sullivan area from Canada. Her sisters clung to the English tradition of serving afternoon tea. Two of her brothers owned a woolen mill which made blankets. It was a favorite joke of these men to trick their young nephews into inhaling over a vat of ammonia in their mill.

J. F. Sproatt was school trustee when the high school was built; the state legislature extended his term beyond the legal limit so he could see the project through.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

J. F. and Anna (Brunger) Sproatt had four sons: Garnet, who died in infancy; Carl, Steve and Charles Victor. The youngest, Charlie, was born in 1888 in Carlisle, at the corner of Eaton and Saline streets, but was raised in a house on South Ledgerwood street which his father built, although the family lived in two other houses first.

He went to school in the Carlisle Grade Building which was the entire school then. An account of his school days is typical of the times. One lazy day the entire class made a pact to play hooky, except for a boy named Paul Shepherd who came up the back way from lunch and didn't know about it. They had to go to school every Saturday morning for the rest of the year to make up for that half-day's hooky.

One student, Martin Jenkins, tied a pipe inside the hollow support post in the classroom. Since he sat beside the post, he could snatch a puff now and then, blowing the smoke into a knothole of the post. Other boys would chew tobacco and spit inside the knotholes of the posts.

Charlie's worst punishment came for something he didn't do. Someone slipped up to a heat register and opened a milkweed pod, making good his getaway in the fog of fluff. Charlie got blamed, and Prof. Waites didn't ask questions, just started whipping. When older brother Carl intervened, the teacher expelled both of them temporarily.

In high school, a little white building used before the new building was completed, Charlie met Fred Bates Johnson, a teacher who encouraged sports and gave the boys something to do. He furnished the first real baseball. Up till then they had wrapped a ball with string. The teacher umpired and coached.

A big room over the saloon

Continued On Page 6, Col. 2.

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Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

was rented for the game of basketball. Lighted by gas lanterns, the room was only used once. Too much plaster was knocked down in the barroom below.

Charlie had a series of boyhood scrapes: getting dragged by a runaway buffalo which he tried to capture when it bolted from a circus parade; having a cart land on the side of his face when a skittery pony kicked it loose on the hill going out of town; and coming to grief trying to imitate a circus high wire act on a barn roof.

He was 13 when his mother died and there followed a few years of batching with his father and brothers. In 1903 Mr. Sproatt married Julia Cowle.

Charlie had a number of jobs around Carlisle, including pumping water in the barbershop where his brothers also worked. They all learned to cut hair by practising on each other and their father. He also jerked sodas at Anderson's Drugstore. He even worked one day on a railroad section gang. In 1909 he went to Chicago where 10 years later (after service in World War I) he married Darlene Turner.

They moved to Carlisle, took over brother Steve's barbershop, and lived in a large white house on Highway 58, three houses west of Ledgerwood.

The Sproatt Brothers' Grocery Store was opened on April 10, 1925, and continued in partnership until 1940 when Grandpa Sproatt died and Steve took over his plumbing and harness businesses. Charlie continued the store until 1946.

In the early days of the grocery business, Charlie would get up at 4:30 a.m. to sell the miners their lunches.

The Depression brought difficult years for the grocery, but, as Charlie said, people had to eat, so the store kept going. He let some of the unemployed men work out their grocery bills digging the basement under the new addition to his house.

During World War II years, business at the grocery store flourished, or at least as best it could within the bounds of ration books, quotas, coupons, and all the red tape of the Office of Price Administration (OPA). As a small town grocer with good wholesale connections and trade, Charlie was able to fill most of his customer's needs, if not all their desires. In one instance, a mistake in ordering became a lucky break. Shortly before the war, a vast quantity of black pepper was ordered by accident, in ordinary times more than the store would need in years. But when the war came, black pepper was on the frozen list and before the war was over, people came from as far as Terre Haute to buy pepper at Sproatt's.

The booklet brings the family account up to Aug., 1969, and gives names, dates of birth, death, marriage, and all the important happenings in the widely-scattered family which still is based in Carlisle, Ind.

Family Papers Yield Bits of Local History

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Tribune DEC 1 1974

Clearing out an accumulation of family papers can sometimes yield interesting bits of local history. When the Vigo County Historical Society receives such a gift of yellowing, brittle papers including letters, receipts, tax duplicates, deeds, diaries and grocery orders written in faded ink, they carefully sort through them. The individual items worth preserving are placed in acetate page binders and filed according to their content for future reference.

Recently a box of old papers dating from 1822 to 1898 was received from Sullivan County, Indiana. Some of the names involved include Adams, Cory, Davis, DeBaun, Giles, Harris, Hill, Hoag, Hunt, Johnson, Kintz, Ogle, Paddock, Perry, Shattuck, Talbot, Thurman, Tichenor, Warren, Yeager and Zane.

Lack of schooling in pioneer days resulted in nine different spellings for one woman named Rody, Rhoda or Rosa. Her last name was spelled variously — Rawsel, Rosdel, Rosel, Rosell, Rossell, Roswell and Rozel. This should serve as a reminder to anyone searching for their family tree to look for all possible spellings of the name and some they may find almost impossible to believe!

The earliest document was a receipt of Jese Rossel for "three dollars and fifty-five and a half cents in full for his state and county taxes for the yeare 1822." This was signed by the Sullivan county sheriff.

DOROTHY CLARK

According to a later receipt, the 1838 tax of $2.45 was paid on 160 acres of land located in the South West Quarter of Section 5 and Section 6, Township 9, Range 10, in Sullivan County.

Another receipt shows that the 1838 state, county and road taxes of $2.80 were paid by the heirs of Eyenezer Paddock's estate on 160 acres of land in the South East quarter, Section 6, T 9, R 10. Both receipts were signed by William Johnson.

In 1833 Rody Rossel paid $4.964 for 39 acres at $1.25 per acre. According to one store account she traded 8 lb. 2 oz. of feathers valued at $2.03 for supplies totalling $3.40¼. This left an unpaid balance of $1.37.

In this transaction, she bought "mader" for 56¼ cents, 4 oz. indigo for 50 cents; 2 lbs. allum, 25 cents; one-half yard black bobinet, 18¾ cents; three yards black lace, 37½ cents; three yards wide calico, 45 cents; some black ribbon and one pare shoes, one dollar.

We can speculate that she was dyeing wool yarn or line flax with the matter and indigo. The alum would set the dye and make it more permanent. The madder came from a climbing herb with small, yellowish flowers. The root of this plant was used for dyeing. Madder was also the name of the dye and the name of the color the dye produced, a strong purple-red. It is sometimes referred to as "rose madder" and is a pigment characterized chiefly by its lack of permanence, hence the alum.

Indigo was a blue dye obtained from various plants, a deep violet blue, and called "indigo blue."

So many black items among

Continued on Page 6, Col. 1.

lives below and remote from any infected district and that there is no danger from any intercourse with him. (signed) J. M. Talbott, M.D." Smallpox was very prevalent in the Wabash Valley at that time.

This writer would invite anyone having old papers of any kind to share them with history-lovers. The Historical Society Museum library has a copying machine and will not need to keep your papers more than the short time required to copy them while you wait.

Community Affairs File

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Historically Speaking

Ts NOV 23 1975

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts NOV 23 1975

In these days of Centennials and Sesquincentennials someone is always asking for information about the year this or that town in the Wabash Valley was first platted

Early villages platted in Parke County were Armiesburg prior to 1832 in Wabash township on the old canal (original plat destroyed by fire in 1832). Annapolis, on the northwest quarter of section 12 township 16 range 8 west, February 4 1837 by William Margis Sr and John Moulder. Bridgeton on section 22 township 14 range 7 west, by James and Mary Searing March 27 1857. Bloomingdale, platted Sept 30, 1865 on sections 13 and 24 township 16 range 8 west by William Pickard, H G Little and A D Tomlinson. Catlin platted in township 14 and 15 range 7, in the early 1860's. Coloma platted on sections 33 and 34, township 16 Range 8 Jan 27, 1876 by fifteen persons and Diamond, platted on section 34 township 14 range 7 by the Brazil Black Coal Company, Dec 10 1893

Also in Parke County were Fulterton (Lodi) platted on sec on 2 township 17 range 9 by Jesse Bowen and others April 13 1836. Guion platted on section 7 township 16 range 6 by Robert F Bruin, Jan 7 1882 Howard platted February 1848 by John Gaw, just west of Westport. Hudnut, platted on section 14 township 14 range 9 west by Joseph W Morey April 27 1880. Judson, platted on section 24 township 16 range 7 west May 1 1872 by Alexander Buchanan. Jessup platted by John Barnes Feb 26 1887 on section 14 township 14 range 8 west. Klondyke platted on section 31 township 16 range 8 west Jan 15 1907 by William E Ferguson, Walter S Ferguson and Mary Ferguson and Lyford platted on section 14 township 14 range 9 west May 14 1892 by William H Bonner.

In addition Lena platted on section 35 township 14 range 6 west by Robert H King, Feb 15, 1871 Lyford City, platted on sections 14 and 23 township 14 range 9 west by John B Shaw Aug 8 1892. Montezuma platted on sections 24 26 35 36 township 16 range 9 west by Ambrose Whitlock July 20 1849. Mansfield platted Aug 14 1852 by Samuel B Gookins. Marshall platted on section 9 township 16 range 7 west by Alfred Hobson and Mary Hobson, Nov 19, 1879. Mecca, platted on section 20 township 15 range 8, Aug 7, 1890 by Samuel L McCune. Numa, platted by John Wilson, Oct 10 1836 on section 25 township 14 range 9 west, and Northhampton platted on sections 7 and 8 township 16, range 6 west Dec 26, 1851 by William and John Aydelott and Jesse Collings.

Also, Nyesville, platted on

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section 34 township 16 range 7 west by Martin Newling Oct 18 1872 Parkville platted in township 16 range 6 west Oct 4 1837 by Presley Doggett. Rockville (originally platted Feb 28 1825 on section 7 township 15 range 7 west by William P Bryant and T A Howard Rosedale platted on parts of sections 25 27 and 34 township 14 range 8 Sylvania platted on section 10 township 17 range 8 west by David Hadley Sept 6 1839 Tangier platted by William B Swaine and Edmund Lindley March 13 1886 on section 15 township 17 range 8 Westport (later Howard) platted by T N Burton and James R Burton on section 18 township 17 range 8 west June 20 1836 West Union platted on section 17 township 16 range 8 west Feb 18 1837 by John G Hongham West Atherton platted on section 36 township 14 range 9 west by Sirena L Modesett Aug 23 1908 and Waterman (formerly Lodi) on section 8 township 17 range 9 west

In the 1910 census only 19 of the 33 of the towns were still listed Those still in existence 65 years ago were Annapolis Bloomingdale Bridgeton Catlin Colma Diamond Ghion Jessup Judson Lena Lyford Marshall Mecca Montezuma Nyesville Rockville Rosedale Sylvania and Tangier

In the month of November 1832 the building containing the deeds and other valuable public records of Parke County was burned All deed records were burned except those recorded in book D which was opened Nov 12 1831 and was only about half filled

There were 26 towns platted in Vermillion County They included Clinton Jan 8 1829 by Lewis P Rodgers Cayuga (first known as Eugene Junction) by S S Collett Sept 20 1827 Dana by Samuel and J B Aikman Samuel B Kaufman and H B Hammond Aug 18 1874 Alta platted May 18 1871 by John T Panton John D Johnson and James McLaughlin Fairview Park by Charles W Whitcomb on Aug 16 1902 West Clinton Junction platted May 31 1911 by H M Ferguson Samuel C Stultz and Henry C Dies Rangeville Sept 16 1911 by Clinton Coal Co Geneva by the Torrey Coal Co Dec 28 1900 and Rhodes platted by the Brazil Block Coal Co Dec 11 1903

Also Needmore Sept 29 1904 by the Indiana Fuel Company Centenary platted Oct 19 1910 by Joseph W Amis Chums Ford by U G Wright Dec 8 1910 Universal Bunsen platted March 1911 Perrysville May 25 1832 by James Blair Gessie March 20 1872 by R J Gessie Ridgesburg June 4 1904 by Sarah E and Richard C Peterson Newport was first platted July 28 1828 and re platted March 8 1837 by S S Collett St Bernice Aug 18 1905 by Alfred M and Elizabeth J Reed Summit Grove Nov 16 1871 by Abraham H Puy and Hillsdale by Everlin Montgomery and Benjamin F Maston Nov 11 1872

Also Jones platted by Phillip Jones on Feb 25 1862 Springfield by James Burns Oct 1 1828 Solon platted April 2 1836? Transylvania by A E Sergent and G Powers on May 9 1837 and Sheperdstown platted by John Villarson on Aug 10 1836

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File

Mines and Mining (Coal)

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ind Co Sullivan

Ts NOV 30 1975

The earliest known mention of coal mining in Sullivan county is found in the account of David Thomas of his travels up the Wabash Valley in 1816. After describing the Turman settlement and prairie, the writer says: "In this neighborhood we have passed a coal mine, which has been recently opened, though the work has been but partially performed . . . As the excavation is made in the channel of a small brook, the torrent, by removing loose earth, doubtless led to this discovery. All the strata of this fossil that we have seen in the western country has appeared near the surface; and it would not surprise me, if it should be brought forth in a thousand places where the shovel and the pickaxe have never yet been employed."

The use of coal in those early years was entirely local. Occasionally someone would open a surface vein on his farm, and use its product as a substitute for wood. Or a blacksmith would sometimes burn the mineral coal instead of charcoal. But at that time the timber supply was abundant, and except in those individual instances the burning of coal had not come into vogue.

Another reason the burning of coal was not in general use was the fact that stoves were not yet introduced, and a practical method of burning coal without the inconveniences of dirt and smoke had not yet been devised.

Along in the 1830's some coal from Sullivan County was sent down the Wabash River by flatboat to New Orleans, commanding as high a price as Pittsburgh coal. The development of the coal industry is closely involved with the evolution of transportation. Until the superior facilities of the railroads were afforded, the production of coal for distant markets was unprofitable, and the railroads themselves soon became the largest users of coal.

The history of coal mining as an industry in Sullivan County began with the opening of the first railroad lines through this region. The first railroad in Sullivan County was put in operation in 1854. The following year an advertisement in the DEMOCRAT mentions the first practical coal mine in the county, the property of Hanchett & Kelly, of Farmersburg. This enterprising firm took the coal from a bank several miles from the railroad, so a three-foot gauge wooden railroad was built late in 1855 from the mine to the railroad, over the three miles to Farmersburg.

Their cars were each of 25 bushels capacity, and it was necessary to reload into the regular railroad cars. Some years later the mining companies were able to persuade the railroads to build switch tracks out to the mines.

During the Civil War large quantities of coal were sent out to the machine shops of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad where the coal was chiefly used.

A report of 1883 states that Sullivan County produced 87,470 tons from twelve mines. In the same year Clay County mined 661,410 tons; Daviess County, 240,000 tons; Parke, 119,567 tons; and Vigo County, 96,710 tons.

Sullivan County continued to rise in coal production. In 1900 it ranked third or fourth, then advanced to second place, and by 1906 was first, with Greene second and Clay fifth. By 1907 there were 37 coal mines in Sullivan County. Greene and Vigo counties were next, each having 28 mines in operation.

An interview with an elderly gentleman told of the hard work, days of back-breaking toil and the dangers of coal mining of yesteryear. He worked as a timberman and described his work. ". . . When I say timberman I mean we called 'em crosswired. Other words, this was a round pole of wood, about 12 feet long, and we'd cut logs, other words, you might call 'em posts, to go under each end of these crosswires to hold the top up. Then, after we got that all fixed up, there'd come a cutter-machine in and cut this place. Then the loader'd go in, do his drilling, do his own shooting. Here'd come the mule with the car, set this car in, and he'd go to loading. That way on up, you'd have around eight to ten men. One man would have a horse, but mostly all mules. They were educated. They knew their stuff too, what I mean. Well, after the car was loaded, they'd take it out to the main line and pull it up there with this mule. You'd get about five or six cars. Then they'd take what you'd call a ide track, and they'd take and pick their empty up back and

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they'd load out till they got that cut of coal cleaned up. And then the same thing was done right over, timbered it right back; fix it ready for another cut of coal. Them was pretty hard days, that pick and shovel business was."

Another veteran coal miner told how the coal mining industry has greatly changed with the coming of the unions and the mechanization of the mines. Old-timers still remember working for long hours for low wages in poor working conditions, using inadequate equipment in dangerous surroundings.

"My occupation was loading coal with a shovel, that's when the mines started. Work all night and come out at daybreak. I was loading coal by the tonnage for 40 cents. I wasn't making much. Oh, about 25 or 30 a month."

Working conditions were very poor, as one miner remembered. "I worked in a place one time and there come I guess about a 100 feet slate fall. The mines were very dangerous; some had bad tops, a top with soft top with cracks in it."

In 1898 it was estimated that four-fifths of the surface of Sullivan County had coal deposits underneath. The estimated total of tons in the deposits was placed at 1,650,000,000 tons with 950,000,000 tons still unmined. The annual output of the county at that time was about three million tons.

In the report of 1898, the greatest thickness of a coal vein in the county was Coal 5 at Alum Cave, ranging from nine to 11 feet. The geologist's prediction that Sullivan County "will produce coal for several centuries to come" is good news in view of the energy problem and source of fuel over 75 years later.

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

1-16-77-T.S.

When the first white families came to Jefferson township, Greene County, Indiana, the nearest mills were forty miles away on Shaker Prairie, above Vincennes. Later Ketcham's Mill went into operation near Bloomington, Monroe County, and another called Rawley's Mill, on Eel River at the hill near the old reservoir

Before Welton and Col. Fellows built their mills on Richland Creek, and for a few years before Alexander Craig built his mill at Point Commerce bluff on White River, the first settlers raised plenty of corn and garden vegetables, and had to live on sweet and Irish potatoes, lye hominy, beat meal and deer meat.

In fact, deer skins and venison hams were almost considered as legal tender on all small debts.

Craig also built a cotton gin to pick out cotton seed in his mill. Later this cotton gin was removed and made into a tramp-wheel cotton gin in a little horse mill on the Fuller place.

In 1824, the land on which Worthington now stands was a large cotton field. Nearly fifty acres of choice cotton was in full bloom on August 1st.

Cultivated by Benjamin Shumaker, William Winters, William Huey, Jehu Inman, John Craig, Thomas Stalcup and a few others, this cotton field was reputed to be the prettiest crop in western Indiana. Young people from all over came to work in this cotton patch.

The town of Worthington was laid out by the Messrs. Andrews and Barrackman in 1849.

Lone Tree Creek and Lone Tree Prairie were named for the old oak tree which stood alone in the prairie for a great number of years. The old red-oak stood on the north side of the Harrison Trace.

Scaffold Prairie in Smith Township was not named for a place of hanging as might be supposed. This section was well-known for its salt licks and the deer and buffaloes had carved out large basins. Ravines or ditches made by the wear of the animals and the wash of water along their paths fanned out in all directions.

Around this lick scaffolds were constructed by setting four posts in the ground and making a rude platform. Upon these scaffolds the Indians would sit and watch for game, killing the unsuspecting animals at will. These scaffolds were still standing years after the white man arrived on the prairie.

Settlers with heavy teams for breaking prairie sod would haul goods from Louisville for the merchants in the county as there were no railroads and the Wabash River was too low for steamboating in the fall. They received $1.50 per hundred for hauling to Terre Haute, and with big wagons and teams, could haul from 2500 to 3000 pounds.

One teamster told how he hauled a load to Rob Roy, forty miles north of Terre Haute and back "without getting his wagon-sheet wet."

Probably the oldest village in Greene County was the log cabin town of Fairplay, located on the bluff just west of White River, about four miles south of Worthington, on the old Vincennes State Road. When the first white people settled there it was an Indian camping ground.

Solomon Dixon built the first ferry boat and established the river ferry. Eli Dixon built the first tramp-wheel corn mill, and the first distill house near the mill, located a half mile east of the village.

Cotton was a stable crop and Dr. John A. Pegg built a cotton gin. Rice was also cultivated, but the crop could not be cleaned out. A few years later, the short summer seasons and cut-worms cut off all the cotton fields.

At that time Fairplay had the largest population of any place in Greene County. The Dixons had the best farms, the fastest horses, the biggest crowd at the horse races, biggest cornfields, most corn in their cribs and the biggest Fourth of July barbecues.

The first candidates for Congress were the Hon. Ratliff Boone, of Sullivan County, and Judge Thomas H. Blake, of Terre Haute. When they gave their speeches at Fairplay, Mr. Blake said he would beat Mr. Boone that year and gave his reason.

Judge Blake told the people that all along the river as he came down, he heard a few big bullfrogs in the river saying, "Ratliff Boone Ratliff Boone Ratliff Boone"

While over among the small farmers and the little frogs on the prairies and along the creeks, all the frogs were saying, "Blake Blake Blake" And sure enough, Judge Blake was elected to Congress.

Old-time preacher, William Roach, was six-footseven and had the biggest feet of any white man in Greene County. He always had to send to Louisville for size 14 boots every time he wore anything except Indian moccasins. For a day's work he would cut five acres of wheat with a scythe and cradle.

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Historically Speaking

Ts MAR 6 1977
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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Following the Revolutionary War, duels became such a frequent occurrence that legislative bodies called it a growing public evil. The celebrated duel between Col. Aaron Burr and Gen. Alexander Hamilton, which resulted in the death of Hamilton, aroused the public even more against dueling.

Prohibited in most of the States, it was outlawed in Indiana from its beginning in 1816. State and county officers were required to take a stringent oath vowing not to take part in any duel.

On March 6, 1821, Phineas B. Rogers, a justice of the peace of Washington, Daviess County, officiated at the swearing-in ceremonies of the newly-elected Greene County commissioners. They were Thomas Plummer, David Deem and Peter Herringtom. Thomas Bradford was the first sheriff.

In addition to the usual oath of office, they were required to swear that they had not, since the first day of June, 1816, "either directly or indirectly, knowingly given, accepted or carried a challenge to any person or persons, in or out of the State, to fight single combat with any deadly weapon."

The county seat of Greene county was located on Sections 9 and 10, in Township 7 North, Range 5 West, and named Burlington.

Five townships were named Highland, Richland, Burlingame, Plummer and Stafford. The first county seal had a heart in the center surrounded by an olive branch.

In August, 1821, Soloman Dixon, Greene county's first representative in the State legislature, established a ferry which later became known as the Bradford ferry at Fairplay.

Jonathan Lindley, the Quaker surveyor who laid out the town of Terre Haute in 1816, was one of the first grand jurors and was elected county commissioner in 1822.

Amory Kinney, admitted to practice as an attorney in Greene County in 1821' became a Terre Haute resident and an eminent judge. Early court cases involved land disputes and cases of slander.

Only five marriage licenses were issued that first year of 1821. They included Isaac Jackson to Elizabeth Griffith; William Richey to Nelly Ramsouers; David Smith to Mary Brinson; Simon Drake to Mary Burcham, and Philip Siler to Sarah Lindley.

The first courthouse at Burlington cost only $250.

In 1823, Augustus Passmore was licensed to keep a tavern. He was a justice of the peace, could build a house, superintend a jail, keep tavern, or turn his hand to almost any useful employment.

The bill of fare and prices of this first hotel keeper at Burlington were set by the county commissioners. "Each and every dinner, 25 cents; breakfast, 20 cents; supper, 20 cents; horse to corn and hay, 25 cents; whisky by half pint, 12 ½ cents; cider by quart, same; one gill of whisky, 6 ½ cents; good rum by half pint, 37 ½ cents; good French brandy, half pint 50 cents; boarding by the week, $2; horse keeping by week, $1.25, by day, 37 ½ cents."

Early in 1824, Burlington was having water problems, and people wanted to move the county seat. Fairplay was suggested, but wealthy landowner Peter C. Van Slyke made a generous offer of land and Bloomfield was laid off as the new county seat.

Notice of the sale of lots on April 22, 1824, was published in the Indianapolis newspapers stating, "This town is beautifully situated on the east side of the west fork of White river, on a rich, dry soil, plentifully watered by good springs, possessing as many natural advantages as any other new town, perhaps, on this river, surrounded with a very flourishing settlement, contiguous to mills and mill seats..."

Hance Stalcup surveyed the town of Bloomfield and laid it off in lots. William Clenny, Revolutionary War veteran, was one of the chain carriers at this survey.

He lived to be nearly a hundred years old. In his old age, he wept like a child when he heard Gen. Greene's marching song.

Two other Revolutionary War soldiers, Cornelius Westfall and Willis Fellows emigrated to Greene county and were early settlers.

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Historically Speaking

Ts MAR 2 0 1977

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By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Local history and genealogy can be found in unusual places. Mrs. Lela M. Hays, of Terre Haute, sent in clippings she had received from Waldorf, Maryland, of the CROWLEY DAILY SIGNAL's 50th edition of Acadia Parish, Louisiana, and neighboring communities printed in 1949.

The headline of one clipping immediately caught my eye—"Crowley Owes Much to Parke County of Indiana for Contributing Many Families and Northern Capital for Early Progress."

The article told how the Crowley rice producing area in Louisiana was indebted to Parke county, Indiana, for "contributing a large number of good citizens, both men and women, who came with their 'lares et penates' to make their homes in this area."

They brought with them the wheat farm tools and flour machinery, much of which was used in the earlier type rice mills. With these things they brought the skills in using them. And many brought some cash, while others influenced the bringing in of Northern capital.

One of the early comers was John T. Gillentine, who was just another young man looking around when he made a trip South. From New Orleans he proceeded west over the newly laid portion of track from New Orleans to Morgan City and thence to Houston, passing through the grassy pastures of southwestern Louisiana filled with cattle.

He reported his observations to friends in Marshall and other towns in Parke county, telling them of the riches the Louisiana prairies seemed to offer. Many Hoosiers became interested in the stories this Tennessee-born, Kentucky-reared young man told.

He did something more than talk, for he offered to and did bring through several carloads of work stock, household goods and farm tools for some of the earlier immigrants from Indiana.

Gillentine made the decision to make Louisiana his home, went back to Kentucky to persuade an old sweetheart to join him there. They were married, and their first home was at Wright, where he became the first storekeeper and postmaster, later moving to Gueydan where he became mayor. He died in 1908, and his widow and two sons were still living there in 1949.

Another contender for the "got to Louisiana first from Indiana" title was John B. Wright who arrived in 1888.

John's father had a friend by the name of Wilkins who had left Parke county in a covered wagon and settled in what became known later as the Evangeline Oil Field when John paid his first visit to the Louisiana rice country.

It seems probable that John Wright learned of the Gueydan pasture lands offered for sale when he visited the Wilkins family in 1888.

Immediately after that visit, he went to Mermentau and took a boat to Shell Beach where he borrowed a horse to ride to St. Bonnette, the home of Jean Pierre Gueydan. Wright purchased Section 12 for $3,520, only $5.50 an acre.

Berryman Richard Garland, known as "Uncle Dick," was the leader of the Parke county group. A natural born leader and thoroughly tested in the Civil War as a cannoneer in Grant's army at Vicksburg and other battles, he led them through many difficulties.

After several years of farming and establishing canals, he moved to Texas and later to southern California. His sons were involved in rice production in 1949.

Salmon Lusk Wright, who became the father of rice, was another of the Parke county men in the exodus from Indiana. Advised by his brother, John, of the land opportunities, he shipped his work stock, tools and furniture to Louisiana.

Calvin Garland and his family were early settlers of Gueydan Pasture and still own choice land there. Alexander and John McMurty and the McCampbell family of Marshall, Indiana, also settled there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Linebarger, the Andy Linebarger family, and the Shubael Robbins family migrated from West Union, Parke county, to Louisiana.

The Gillentine forefathers, originally called Girlington, arrived in this country from England in 1726. These two brothers settled in Virginia, then migrated to Kentucky, Tennessee, and finally to Parke county.

John T. Gillentine's Kentucky sweetheart arrived in Louisiana in February, 1894, as a bride just before her 21st birthday. A descendant of "Mad Anthony" Wayne, Revolutionary War hero, her family left Virginia to make their home in Kentucky.

She recalled her arrival in southwestern Louisiana and how the hardships of those pioneer days were "fun" compared to earlier settlements farther north. Dixieland was much warmer.

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Ts MAY 1[illegible] 1977

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A century-old pamphlet printed in Worthington, Ind., and written by "Uncle" Jack Baber in 1875, entitled "The Early History of Greene County, Indiana, as Taken From the Official Records and Compiled from Authentic Recollections of Pioneer Settlers Embracing all Matters of Interest Connected with the Early Settlement of the County from 1813 to 1850, including Brief Sketches of Pioneer Families Giving Marriages, Births, Deaths, with Names of Creeks, Roads, Ferries, etc., etc." recently came into my possession.

Like all Indiana counties, Greene County was first inhabited by Indians. In the northeast corner of Richland Township, near what was called Sleath's Mill, there was a large rock used by the Indians as a lookout. The crude steps cut by the Indians were still visible in 1875, over a century ago.

The first party of white men visited Greene County in 1813. These young men were on a hunting trip from Vincennes in Knox county. They started out from Vincennes in a boat, went down the Wabash to the mouth of the White river, up the White river to the forks, and up the west fork to a point about the mouth of Richland creek, south of Bloomfield.

Here they landed and spent some time in hunting. At the time of this excursion, a part of the old Indian graveyard, near their landing in Greene County was comparatively new. This location later became known as the Warnick farm.

Boys from Bloomfield thought it great sport to dig up the Indian skeletons. They were always hoping to find valuable items. Nearly all traces of this early burial ground had disappeared a century ago.

The earliest white settlers did not get over their deep and abiding hatred for the Indians, especially those whose relatives had been cruelly and wantonly murdered by them.

Even after the treaty of peace had been made, an occasional Indian would be found dead from gunshot wounds. Perhaps the last Indian killed in Greene County was dressing a deer he had shot in a ravine running up from the east side of White river a short distance below the mouth of Richland creek on land which became the Lester farm in later years.

The U.S. land survey was being made, and a hunter employed by the surveying party to furnish them with meat heard the crack of the Indian's rifle. Stealthily the white hunter crept up behind the Indian and shot him. He concealed the body in the ravine and covered it with rocks. The deer became a part of the rations of the surveying party.

At about the same time, another Indian was killed as he was drinking out of White River somewhere near the line between Daviess and Greene counties.

At one time, a large body of Indians camped near the bridge across White River, on the west side of A.J. Newsom's farm. This was during the time all Indians were escorted to new homes west of the Mississippi River.

As late as 1850, the trees were still standing off which they had taken the bark to cover their wigwams and to make their light canoes.

Greene County was organized in 1821, and was named in honor of Revolutionary War hero, General Nathaniel Greene.

The first settlement in the locality of Bloomfield was in

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1818. In that year, John Vanvorst, Daniel Carlin and Peter C. VanSlyke settled there.

In 1819, James Warnick, Reuben Hill, Thomas Bradford, William Robinson, William Scott, Carpus Shaw and Louis B. Edwards settled in and around Bloomfield.

Soon after these came Levi Fellows, Norman Pierce, Oliver Cushman, E.P.Cushman, Reuel Leonard, Eli Faucett, Samuel C. Hall, Alexander Clenny, Oliver Lockwood, John Mason, John Jones, Barney Perry, Peter and John Hill, Isaac Anderson, John Shryer, Adam Stropes, Dr. William Freeland, Samuel Brooks, Orange Monroe, Abner C. Rawlins, Edmond Gillman, William Anderson, Edward Simpson (called "Buddy"), Samuel Bateman, John Harrell, Nathan Dixon, Elijah Adkinson, William Norris, Stephen Eaton, Dr. Rust, and many others whose names are unknown.

Three of these earliest settlers were still living in 1875. They were Alexander Clenny, Judge L.B. Edwards (nearly 80 years old) and Dr. William Freeland, then a retired farmer.

—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Clark, Dorothy

Early Greene County: Development, Resources

~~Ter. & Cresc~~

TS JUL 24 1977

In 1841, Andrew Downing started a blast furnace for the purpose of making pig iron, and casting stoves, etc., about one mile from Bloomfield, and called it Richland Furnace.

This furnace continued in operation about 18 years, and during that time other men took an interest in it. It seems remarkable that anyone would go into an enterprise like that at a point so far from any ordinary means of transportation for such heavy freight.

Much of the iron was hauled with horse teams to Louisville, a distance of 100 miles, for only five dollars per ton to the teamsters.

Some years after the furnace was started, M. H. Shryer, William Eveleigh and William Mason went into the business with Downing. About that time they purchased a steamboat and called it the Richland.

This boat made several trips up White River and took off iron and produce. Other steamboats occasionally came up White River and took off loads of pig iron.

With this uncertain mode of transportation, the furnace continued the manufacture of pig iron for several years.

Finally, the partners left the firm and Chauncey Rose, E. J. Peek and A. L. Voorhees joined Downing. These men brought new capital into the business and enlarged the operation greatly.

In 1856, Henry Irons, a manager from an iron furnace in Kentucky, took charge of the entire business and plans were made to start other furnaces under his management.

At this time, the Wabash and Erie Canal was in operation and the iron could be transported by canal boats. Under Irons' management everything seemed to prosper, and a thriving little town sprang into existence around the furnace.

Employment was given to a large number of workmen, and farmers found ready sale for their produce.

When the Canal Company suspended improvement on the south end of the line, it cut off all means of transportation except by teams, and the furnace soon blew out never to be rekindled again.

It is said that when iron commanded a good price, this furnace company could make it pay and haul their iron 30 miles to a railroad.

There lies undeveloped beneath the surface of Greene County untold millions of dollars. Great mines of iron ore from six to 30 feet thick, and stratas of block coal from four to eight feet thick, underlies thousands and tens of thousands of acres. On the surface, Greene County has an abundance of limestone, fine timber, water and rich farm land.

Some Hoosier counties have rich iron ore, some have coal, and others have timber and limestone. Seldom can all these resources be found in abundance and of good quality in one locality.

In some places in the county, huge masses of iron ore weighing several tons each lie upon the surface.

When this furnace was first started, and teamsters were hauling pig iron to Louisville, they were hauling wheat there for 12½ cents per bushel, and after hauling it there, would sell it for 50 cents a bushel.

The first canal boat passed opposite Bloomfield about the middle of June, 1851, down the Wabash and Erie Canal.

James Stalcup established the first blacksmith shop just east of where Worthington is located. He later moved over on the east side of White River and lived there 50 years.

He made the best axes and Cary plows of any blacksmith in Greene County, and also built the first brick house in the county.

Born in North Carolina, Stalcup moved to Sumner County, Tennessee, where he married Margaret Marlin, an Irish lady. They came to Greene County in 1818, and produced eight children.

In those early days, a letter was written to an early settler asking about opportunities in newly-formed Greene County. The reply stated, "We have fat pork, turkey soup, and mush and milk aplenty. By the Lord, come on."

On the east side of White River, in Highland Township, on land belonging to John H. Dixon in 1875, stood a huge sycamore tree said to be a hundred feet high and 13 feet in diameter. It was called the Tall Sycamore of the White River Valley.

On Aug 3, 1875, when the water in White River bottoms was at its highest mark, five men, John W. Padgett, John W. Carmichael, Thomas Walker, William Goodwin and John D. Allen, paddled a big canoe and ran it up in the fork of the big sycamore and cut a notch to mark the high water level.

Having a bottle of good whisky, they all took a big dram and had a high old time while standing on the fork of that huge tree. It made a good story to tell their grandchildren.

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—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Community Affairs File

Greene County towns have interesting history

Ind. Co's — Greene.

Ts OCT 3 0 1977

Editor's Note: Some more information about the early history of Greene County follows.

The name of the postoffice at Jonesboro was Hobbieville, in Section 35, Center Township, Greene County. The population of the town in 1875 was one hundred. There were two stores, two doctors, three carpenters, two wagon shops, one steam fruit distillery, a blacksmith shop, a lawyer, two notary publics, one school and a church.

Point Commerce was laid out at the mouth of Eel river, in Eel River township, about 1840 by the Messrs. Allison. At one time it was quite a commercial point on the river, but because of the cholera and the destruction of the west part of the village by fire, most of the business men left town.

The postoffice and old-time business houses were moved to Worthington. By 1875, there was only a school house and a church.

Scotland was the voting precinct and main trading point in Taylor Township, a flourishing little village with a population of 300 in 1875.

Dresden, the old log-cabin town on the Owensburgh and Bloomfield Road, was laid out by Isaac Johnson, a well-known Negro citizen of Center Township. There was only a school house left by 1875.

Fairplay, the oldest village in Greene County, and the first countyseat, was the best place for fun and games in western Indiana.

Bloomfield, county seat, boasted of a courthouse door sill about 470 feet above sea level, a population of 1,000 and the usual number of stores, shops, saloons and two weekly newspapers.

In early times, there were only a few store houses at Terre Haute, and but one at Bloomfield, and then William Smith established a small store at the eastern edge of the prairie where Worthington now stands.

Wickliff Wines sold dry goods at Linton and there was a small store at Fairplay.

Among the pioneer wagoners who hauled goods from Louisville, Ky., to these early stores were Warner Davis, Philip Shintaffer, Adam Stropes, Elias and Howard Crance, Thomas Stalcup, Elias and William Dayhoff, George R. Taylor, William and Robert Cunningham, John Davis, Robert Bratton, William and James Merris and Elijah Crumpton.

About 10 years before any permanent settlement was made in Greene County, a group of pioneers came from Lee county, Virginia, and settled in the woods of Lawrence county. They left Virginia in 1809, came over to Kentucky, and then to their new home, a fort half a mile north of Leesville in 1810.

In the fall of 1813, Robert Rawlins and others made the first settlement in the bottoms near Scottsville. In 1815, Edward Johnston made another settlement near Scottsville, but these early settlers were driven out by the Indians who massacred many of the Lawrence County pioneers.

In 1875, an Old Settlers Meeting was held on the Fourth of July. The 99th anniversary of American Independence was celebrated with a basket picnic just west of Worthington.

The Stalcup Martial Band began to play in the morning, and the exercises were opened by prayer led by Rev. John Laverty who then gave a 15-minute speech to the young people on why the Fourth of July was a national holiday.

The Declaration of Independence was read by Benjamin Stalcup, followed by short speeches by Rev. Robert Blount and Capt. E. E. Rose.

The dinner was served at noon, after which the crowd reassembled at the band stand.

While the band played "Jay-Bird," 14 old pioneers took their seats of honor along with other dignitaries.

Speeches were made until 3 p.m., when Jack Baber dismissed the crowd of two thousand. He promised them a big centennial and old-fashioned barbecue on July 4, 1876, at the new fairgrounds just west of Worthington.

He was a shipper and dealer in ornamental trees, osage hedge plants, evergreen shrubbery and garden vegetables.

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Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ind. Co's Sullivan

Sullivan County graveyard provides glimpse into the past

Community Affairs File
Clark, Dorothy
Ts FEB 2 6 1978

One of Sullivan County's oldest burial places, the old Walls graveyard, is located on a hill near Morrison Creek on the Frank Hughes farm, three miles northeast of Sullivan in Hamilton Township.

This over 150-year-old pioneer cemetery was fenced but in only fair condition when last visited by this writer. No telling what shape it's in by now.

The original deed for this land was signed by President Martin Van Buren and conveyed a land entry to Solomon Walls, early pioneer of the community.

He made the original deed for real estate on which the original town (now city) of Sullivan was located.

The first burial in this cemetery in 1825 was Lucretia Walls, daughter of Solomon Walls, who was the grandfather of Frank Hughes.

One veteran of the War of 1812 is buried in the old cemetery, as are several veterans of the Civil War, so it is protected by Indiana state laws.

Several monuments were erected in this old graveyard for soldiers who lost their lives during the Civil War and were buried on the battlefields in the South.

Names of many whose descendants still live in the area are found on the old tombstones.

They include Rusher, Conner, Hays, Moore, Borders, Parks, Case, Morin, Dix, Dudley, Hughes, Curtis, Johnson, Metcalf, Plew, Osburn and Dickerson.

Graves of war veterans buried in Walls graveyard who have markers are George W. Case (1832-1901), Captain, Company H, 85th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers (the father of Jabe Case); James A. Walls (1837-1883), Captain Company D, 31st Regiment, Second Indiana C Volunteers, wounded at Langret, Tenn., on April 1, 1862; Elijah D. Bolenbaugh (1853-73); Hiram H. Case, buried at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Reuben Crapo, soldier in the Massachusetts Militia, War of 1812, who died Oct. 26, 1855.

Two graves of a mother and her child, said to have been murdered by the Indians about 1813 and buried near the site of old Fort Haddon, east of Carlisle, cannot be located 165 years later.

A pioneer story of this incident stated that these graves were located at the rear of the orchard of Colonel John Benefield east of Carlisle. He was a member of the Indiana Con-Corydon in 1816 and les buried in the old Benefiel Cemetery near Carlisle.

The graves of this mother and child, who were massacred by the Indians, were known as the Indian graves for many years and were located by apple trees planted as markers, but no trace remains today.

Earlier the land of James Whipps, it was later owned by James Phegley, Jr.

During the War of 1812, hostile Indians had been incited by the British against the Wabash Valley settlers.

In the spring of 1813, a party of Kickapoos had been to Vincennes to purchase liquor. Enroute to their camping place at Hanging Rock, they came to the Thompson-Hazelton homes who secured land grants from General William Henry Harrison on which Fort Haddon was built.

Finding only women and children present, the Indians burned some of the buildings, tomahawked the old women and babies, scalped them and threw the bodies in a large well. They ripped open the featherbeds and poured the feathers into the well.

A girl named Nancy Thompson was not killed, but was tied to a tree. While the drunken Indians were burning and scalping, she, unnoticed by the savages, managed to kick over a nearby bee-hive.

The girl was not spared by the angry swarm of bees, but the half-naked Indians were completely routed. She managed to free herself and started in search of her father and uncle.

Near where the Bethlehem Church was later built, she came across seven scouts armed with rifles. Learning her story, they set out on the trail of the Indians and located them at Hanging Rock, later to become historic in southern Indiana.

The vengeance began. Drunk and sick, suffering from numerous bee stings, the Indians were sprawled around the entrance to the cave.

Stealing to a commanding location above the cave, the scouting party each selected his victim and all fired at once. Six Indians bit the dust, one escaped, and another was killed while attempting to escape.

The seven Indians were scalped and the scalps were carried back to Fort Haddon where they were nailed to a log above the door of the smoke-house. Here they remained for many years, tragic grisly reminders of a pioneer tragedy.

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Dorothy Clark + Ind Co — Community Affairs File

Early Sullivan County history difficult to research . . .

TS MAY 7 1978

Some counties are more difficult to research than others, and one of these is Sullivan County. Twice the courthouse was destroyed by fire with all the priceless records it contained.

Much of the early settlement and its people was lost, but some of the earliest settlers have given accounts of the events that began before the War of 1812 and ended with the establishment of stable and orderly government.

Long before these men and women came up from Kentucky and out from the east who were to make up a civilized community in Sullivan county, there were Indians, French traders and trappers, and soldiers floating down the Wabash river on their way from Detroit to Vincennes. These men must have stopped in Sullivan County, traded with the Indians, and even penetrated its forests is search of game.

Not until the southern part of the county had been purchased from the Indians through the treaty of 1803 at Fort Wayne, however, did the permanent settlement begin.

In that same year James Ledgerwood, his wife and several children started from Kentucky by boat and landed at Sullivan County, then Knox County, where they settled and lived until they died.

Choosing a home on the Wabash River, James Ledgerwood's son, Colonel Samuel Ledgerwood, was reared and died nearby. To James and wife, a year after their arrival, a daughter was born, the first white child born in the county.

The Ledgerwood family must have had a solitary time of it, for it was not until 1806 that the next settler arrived. This was John Haddon, who came from Virginia with his wife and six sons, John, Jesse, David, Richard, Ellett and William R. They settled near what became Carlisle and built a blockhouse as did the Ledgerwoods.

Joel Collins, a two-fisted Indian-fighting Methodist minister, came from Kentucky the same year and brought with him a family of black people.

Thomas Holder, of Virginia, came with his wife and several children in 1807. Then came the Lismans, Germans, and these four families became the prominent leaders in the development and organization of the community.

A number of families came the next four years, but as they were always in fear of the Indians, their first thought was to fortify themselves. The danger was so great at times they were unable to make journeys to obtain food, and at other times they were compelled to gather at the strongest blockhouse in the area to defend themselves.

Sullivan County, originally a part of Knox County, was quite large at the time of its creation. The act creating the county was passed by the state legislature on Dec. 30, 1816, and was effective the following January 15, 1817.

Its northern boundary was a line separating Harrison's purchase of 1809 from the new purchase of 1818, and it included the greater part of Owen and Clay counties, parts of Parke, Greene, Putnam and Vermillion, and all of Vigo and the present Sullivan County.

In this act, Isaac Montgomery, William Harrington, John B. Grennen, Andrew Purcell and James G. Reed were appointed a commission to fix the seat of justice. They met Feb. 20 at the house of James Sproule and selected Carlisle, the only town in the county. Morgan Eaton had been appointed sheriff, and he called a meeting of county commissioners at Sproule's house where the wheels of government began to turn.

The county was divided into five townships — Haddon, Gill, Fairbanks, Turman and Curry, all named for prominent settlers. Jackson township was soon added.

The first justices of the peace, who soon became county commissioners under state law, were John Creager, George Boone, E. W. Brown, Joseph Dickson, Abe Elliott, William Burnett, David Harbet, Henry Anderson, John F. Johnson and William Winter.

Vigo County was created Jan. 21, 1818 (160 years ago), and it was not long before Sullivan was reduced to its present size.

The county seat was removed from Carlisle to Merom in 1819, where it remained until 1842 when the town of Sullivan was founded.

The state legislature ordered that the county seat be relocated to within one and a half miles of the geographic center of the county. Enoch Walls donated 80 acres and his brother Job 20 acres with the provision that one-sixth of the proceeds from the sale of lots should revert to them. This offer was accepted, and Sullivan was founded.

It was first called Benton, however, when it was found there were other postoffices of that name, William B. Baker, surveyor, finally gave it the same name as the county.

The first log cabins were built by Hugh S. Orr, Mason F. Buchanan, George Smith and Squire McDonald. The first courthouse was destroyed by fire Feb. 5, 1850 with all its records.

As a fire at Merom many years before had destroyed the courthouse with its records, many of the facts relating to the early history of the county are not certain.

Carlisle was laid out in 1815 or 1816 by McFarland and Sproule. They bought 100 acres from James Ledgerwood for the purpose, and he later bought into the partnership and became one of the founders.

Merom was laid out in 1817 on land belonging to Hughes and Harney; Paxton in 1868, by W. P. Walters; Farmersburg in 1853, by William Hopewell and S. J. Cummings; New Lebanon in 1827, by Josiah Boone and Thomas Springer.

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Land 'wheeling and dealing' over 100 years old here

Ts JUL 3 0 1978

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Building new subdivisions is really nothing new. Pioneers were "wheeling and dealing" just as actively in real estate more than 100 years ago.

Vigo county was originally part of Knox county, then Sullivan county, before it was officially formed in 1818. So very early settlers are to be found in those two counties before they appear in land or probate records of Vigo county.

Some of their developments are still around, in the form of thriving towns or at least sleepy villages. Others are remembered only by fading entries in old plat books.

Where were Salisbury, Richland, Marion, Vandalia or Pierresville located? Nashville has survived as Monroe City, and Dickburge, once a haven for river pirates, is still called to mind by the Dicksburgh hills north of Hazelton.

But Knightsville in Knox county is gone, and so are Knoxville and Monroe. Only their plat records remain, along with neatly drawn maps showing streets and squares that often came no closer to construction than in the mind of the optimistic land-owner.

The Vincennes plat records, which in earlier years took in much of the Indiana Territory, contain some surprising entries. The original plat of Terre Haute is filed here, and so is that of Carlisle. One labeled Liverpool turns out to be present-day Washington, Indiana.

Several of the early Knox county towns were platted along White river or the Wabash river in the 1830's or 1840's. The coming of the railroads in the following years helped doom them.

Pierresville was laid out on White river in 1839 by Pierre and Susan Boyer Richardville, and by Mitchel and Jane Longser Richardville. It was laid out with an Emperor Street, but vanished anyway despite that touch of grandeur.

Knoxville on the Wabash river was platted in 1836, but even less is known about it. Its developers were John and Allen H. Ramsey, Alfred Belwood and R. D. Bradburn.

The town of Salisbury, near Wheatland, was recorded in 1841 by Takok Boswell, Sion S. Harbin and his wife Betsey.

The platted town of Marion was laid off in quarter-acre lots on the bank of White river by Nimrod Teverbaugh. Believing in starting small, his town consisted of only one block bounded by four streets.

The plat of Richland, located near the present site of Fritchton, was platted by Rebecca Purcell, guardian of Margaret Ann and Maria Purcell, in 1859 before Elihu Stout, Knox county recorder and publisher of THE WESTERN SUN.

Other developments which only got as far as the plat books were Vandalia, laid out for Joseph Vanmeter in 1839 on the Old Terre Haute Road near Busseron; Knights Ville, which was platted in 1844 with 72 streets, and Monroe, which was planned in 1816 by Benjamin Turman.

Monroe had no connection with present-day Monroe City which was platted as Nashville in 1856 on land sold by Monroe Alton and his wife to Alexander Lesley.

Some where along the line, the town's name reverted to that of its original proprietor. Prior to being called Nashville, it was called Lovlidale.

One of the most interesting of the now-vanished settlements in Knox county was Dicksburgh platted in 1838. Original lot owners were Anthis, Martin, Johnson, Edwards, Crow, Purcell, Davis and Caddington.

As the years passed, however, the land passed to other hands and the town became a hideout for river bandits. When a flood finally wiped it out, several of the original owners re-purchased the land for taxes and made sure the settlement was never rebuilt.

Many post offices in Knox county were never incorporated—like Pond Creek and Red Cloud, they were "traveling" post offices with a new postmaster and location with each change of administration.

Spauldingsville, the winter quarters for the Spaulding Brothers Circus, was located east of Willis Grove and once boasted its own post office. It also gave rise to some stories still extant of hunters who encountered elephants and lions wandering through the woods.

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Sullivan revisited, 1859 through the War Between the States

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File
Ind. Co - Sullivan

By Dorothy Clark

The FEB 18 1979

Editor's note: Readers are treated to two Historically Speaking columns this week, side by side, resulting in part from the recent shortage of newsprint occasioned by the weather and transportation difficulties and causing delayed publication of several Tribune-Star features. We hope this will brighten the outlook for all readers, including those who called to inquire about the missing columns.

So much interest was shown in the early history of Sullivan, Ind., after a recent column on the subject, that it was decided to pick up the account in 1859 and continue through the Civil War years.

In the downtown business district of Sullivan, Dr. W. S. Patterson opened a drug store in 1859, which he sold to Dr. S. S. Coffman the next year. J. Lotz sold books and shoes. The Railroad House became the American House and then the Anderson House.

William Noeller sold boots and shoes just east of Dodd's Hotel in 1859. It later became the Cummins House.

Osborn & Riggs operated a furniture store in 1859, which became Howard & Osburn in 1860. They sold coffins too. Ben C. Sherman opened a grocery store just west of the depot in 1859.

James Price and James Kelly were commission merchants and agents for the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad and Adams Express that year, and James Brodie and James Houpt opened a grocery store on the north side of the square.

Cal Overstreet advertised his services as a well and cistern digger in 1859. Walker & Company opened a family grocery, William Rea had a saloon at the northeast corner of the square and sold ice in 1860, and Mattie Stark opened a milliner's shop.

Mammoth Store

Selling drygoods, boots, shoes, hardware, glass and queensware, the Mammoth Store opened in April, 1860, at the northwest corner of the public square. It was run by William Wilson, James Price, George Price and J. H. Wilson.

This enterprise went under several names and ownership changes until 1865 when the company sold No. 1 Commercial Row with the balance of their stock to Lafe Stewart. They sold No. 2 to James Kelly, and sold the Knotts House to a Mr. Havens of Rushville. Lafe Stewart sold his brick store house to McCammon & Hulse, and David Gordon sold the McGuire House to Ambrose McGuire.

In November, 1865, Dr. J. J. Thompson joined Lafe Stewart and they continued the business together in the Stewart Block which contained five buildings. The man who started the Sullivan Methodist Church, M. E. Chase (Father Chase) had a general store on the southwest corner of the public square.

The Cummins House became the Lovell House in 1860, and Major Isaac Stewart sold out to James W. Wolfe in December. It's difficult to keep up with all the changes in those restless times at the beginning of the Civil War. The Anderson House was sold to John Bledsoe in 1860, and a few months later sold again to Wolfe.

In January, 1861, the Lucas Drug Store moved two doors north. Pat McEneny opened a stone mason shop two doors west of the Cummins House, and Mrs. R. A. Wall opened a millinery shop.

B. Kaltinsky's grocery and liquor store was sold to Major Stewart in 1862, and Wolfe bought out Isaac Stewart's store. J. T. Reid offered free delivery of his groceries, ice cream and soda.

John Grigsby had a stove and tin ware store, Levi Maxwell had a grocery store, Dr. Ziba Foote opened his office over No. 6 Commercial Row, and the Lovell House became the Union Hotel - all in 1861.

William M. Knotts and S. M. White became the proprietors of the American House, and R. R. Cluggage started a livery and sales stable near the square and rented buggies, carriages and hacks.

Reed Store Closes

James Reed & Son, general store, finished forty years of business in Sullivan County in 1864. The firm was owned by James and Samuel Reed. After they closed up in the business in Merom, they came to Sullivan.

Sullivan residents could buy churns, tubs, buckets, measures, etc., made by J. B. Halloway at No. 7 Commercial Row.

McKinley, Griffin & Company, furniture and undertaking, coffins built, etc., became McKinley & Beard in 1865. Then David Crowley, who had just sold his business in Fairbanks, bought into the firm and it became Crowley & McKinley.

In 1866, they installed a steam engine in the furniture shop, and it became the Sullivan Steam Furniture Factory. By 1872, the 25 h.p. engine and eight workmen were turning out coffins and furniture in the cabinet shop and planing mill.

The next year, they opened two more establishments, a furniture store in Commercial Row, and an undertaking establishment. In 1875, they established a branch at Paxton.

James Herriford's Union Saloon and Restaurant served oysters, venison, turkeys, quail and chicken. All sorts of new businesses started up in the 1860s. They prospered and moved to larger and better quarters, and traded hands with great regularity. Civil War years were restless times.

Election returns of those years show that Sullivan County residents believed in the preservation of the Union, but did not believe in interfering with slavery, and preferred that slavery enter the territories rather than have war. The newspaper editor continued to write editorials in favor of peace after Fort Sumter had fallen.

The Civil War years brought hotly contested elections, heated debates, and caused the sale of firearms and ammunition to be forbidden. If a preacher spoke out for abolition it caused more trouble. It was about this time that the alleged quotation from a speech of Daniel Voorhees in which he characterized Union soldiers as "Lincoln dogs" became current throughout the country.

No specific reference can be found of this quotation, but a speech Voorhees made at Sullivan about this time did arouse much bitter feeling among Union men which lasted for decades. Sullivan County continued to remain solidly Democratic, but violence caused many residents to move on to calmer communities.

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Clinton has seen many changes in its history of 155 years

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts FEB 25 1979

Clinton, Indiana, was named in honor of an early governor of New York, DeWitt Clinton. It was laid out in 1824 (155 years ago) by William Harris, a government surveyor, from Martin county.

However, the record of the town and village plats at Newport shows that Clinton was platted and recorded by Lewis P. Rodgers on Jan. 8, 1829. This is probably a corrected and legal platting recorded of the original town situated in section 15, township 15, range 9 west.

At first the growth of the town was very slow. In fact, when the Civil War began, there were only 250 residents. But in 1868, when the railroad was a reality, it took on new life and vigor. Before railroad days it was the center of a farming district for a radius of 50 miles or more.

Across the Wabash, people traded mostly at Terre Haute, 15 miles from Clinton and always attractive to the country trade. Clinton stands on a level plateau extending from the western bank of the Wabash back nearly a mile to the hills, where great coal deposits have been successfully worked for years.

Census records show Clinton's population jumped from 6,289 in 1910 to 8,379 in 1912. This was due to a large influx of foreign born coal miners and their families.

The first small general store was opened in Clinton by John and Benjamin R. Whitcomb. Other early business men were John Payton, H. B. Cole, John Ferrel and John Marks.

Later business men were James McCulloch, Otis M. Conkey, Jones & Chestnut, and Leander Munsel, from Paris, Ill., Alanson Baldwin, of Baldwinsville, Ill., all large pork packers at Clinton. This city was a noted pork market and shipping point for packed pork for many years.

Lesser business was carried on by J. W. and Fielding Shepard, and Volney Hutchison, mechanics, who afterward moved into the country and became successful farmers; S. E. Patton, a cooper; H. F. Redding, carriage-maker and blacksmith, and others.

Many of the buildings occupied by these pioneers were still standing in the 1890's, on the bank of the river near the railroad bridge, where the old boat landing was, monumental relics of that long-ago steamboat era when the shrill whistle of the steamer and the wharf-talk of rover boatmen and roustabouts was heard as they loaded and unloaded the great cargoes of merchandise to and from the boats bound north and south from this landing place. The population had not reached 1,800 yet in 1890.

Civil War Effect

At the close of the Civil War there was a complete change in Clinton's commercial and industrial life. It can only be compared to an upheaval that obliterates old paths, landmarks and structures.

Prior to the Civil War, Clinton had many small privately owned industries. Perrysville, Eugene, Mecca, Clinton and many others were centers of this kind of industry.

In Clinton, B. F. Morey had a wagon factory where shop wagons were made complete from end-gate to tongue. They were likened to Holmes' wonderful "One-Hoss Shay, that ran a hundred years to a day." In connection with this wagon factory was the blacksmith shop, where the iron work was made, and the paint shop where they were painted.

At the foot of Crompton hill was a tan-yard where an old man named John Crompton tanned hides and prepared them for the boot and shoe factory owned by John E. Ryan, on South Main street.

Harry Redding's famous cooper shop made barrels and casks for the pork packers. Robert Chambers' cabinet shop turned out furniture. Greenwat's blacksmith shop made horseshoes, and Wiley's place turned out cradles, bedsteads and coffins, made to order.

There was the Mallory mill, where cane was ground and the juice converted into sorghum molasses. And there were sawmills and shingle mill and grist mills all over the county.

At Mecca, a woolen-mill used up the raw wool raised on ths sheep that roamed the hills of Parke and Vermillion counties. A dam across Big Raccoon furnished the motive power for the mill. Perrysville was a thriving, humming town doing a large business in manufacturing and merchandising.

West of Clinton was the Indiana Iron Furnace, which employed many men and scattered a large payroll throughout the township. They used up the iron ore found everywhere in the creek beds.

All these industries were paralyzed by the after-results of the war. The fires died out of the smelting furnace, the boats came no more for their usual cargoes.

At this time Main street was only a second-rate affair. All the business was done along First street. The river bank was built up almost solidly with wool yards, coal yards, grain elevators, great warehouses, pork packing houses, stores, etc. It was river commerce.

When the Civil War began, the outlet for grain and pork in the south was stopped. All the industries in and near Clinton ground to a halt, and the men went off to war. One source stated that "although they were all Democrats, they were all loyal to their country."

The flouring mill of William Hedges was closed down, and later taken down, brought to town and rebuilt and burned in March, 1891. The grain traffic alone held on until the railroads came to its relief in the 1870s.

Transportation facilities were provided by the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad and the Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern Traction Company.

The Clinton Paving Brick Company was established in 1893. The first output was 40,000 brick per day in August. The company owned 65 acres and produced their own raw material and employed 65 workers.

Clinton also boasted of its overall and shirt factory in the south part of the city which employed 75 persons, mostly women; the Clinton Canning Factory; the ice company; the machine shops of Hays & Balmer and R. P. Shattuck; and the hardwood sawmills of Butcher & Cooper near the river. The large plant of the Clinton Milling Company was also near the river.

In 1912, there were fifteen coal mines represented by the United Mine Workers of America, and several that were not. Clinton was incorporated about 1848-1849, 130 years ago.

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Community Affairs File - Dorothy Clark - Ind Counties Sullivan

Sullivan's 'boom town' days are recalled

TS MAR 1 1 1979

The Civil War caused all small towns to "boom" and prosper in the northern states, and Sullivan, Indiana, was no exception.

James Gray and a Mr. Sweinhardt started a woolen factory near the Depot in 1861. Soon after, this firm became Gray & Taylor, and in May, 1863, they moved the woolen factory to the Big Springs area in Turman township, west of Graysville, where some of the old foundation could be seen a short distance south of State Route 154.

The firm became known as C. M. Taylor & Company, but after Taylor's death in 1867, Joseph Gray ran the mill until 1869 when he sold to Shubal C. York.

The machinery included a wool carding machine to make rolls for the women to spin into yarn on their hand spinning wheels. Other machines were used to make flannel, jeans, cashmere and yarn, and there was a fuller to wash and shrink the cloth. The mill also had a large pair of stone burrs to grind corn and feed.

In 1877, Mr. York died and the machinery was sold and moved away. The building was torn down and moved to the farm of J. B. Mann and rebuilt into a barn.

John Daniels had a shingle machine alongside the woolen mill. He first cut shingles by man-power with a strong man at the end of a long lever, but later he used horse power and finally steam.

The water to make steam was taken from the Big Springs branch. Coming from higher ground, the water was led over a larger branch in a trough. The larger branch would go dry in dry weather, but the Big Springs never failed.

The woolen factory left by Gray & Taylor was refitted by G. F. Ellis, proprietor of the Terre Haute Woolen Factory, with new machinery and opened the last of May, 1863.

This factory was bought by D. M. and E. D. Jewett in March, 1864, and called the Sullivan Woolen Factory. It burned to the ground on June 22, 1865. All the contents were lost, even the company books. Loss on the building and machinery was listed as $10,000. Insurance was only $4,000. A $10,000 stock of wool with no insurance was also lost. Cause of the fire was undetermined.

The Jewetts rebuilt this factory in the fall of 1865. The new brick structure was three stories high and much larger than the previous one.

D. M. Jewett, E. D. Jewett and Paul Dreiser (Paul Dresser's father) became partners in the Jewett Brothers Sullivan Woolen Mills. This firm dissolved April 15, 1869 when Dreiser withdrew from the business.

About June 1, 1870, Dreiser became the proprietor of the Sullivan Woolen Mills. Peter Hill and Eli Milner took over the business in February, 1871, and in 1874, the firm became the property of Thurman & Speakes. Finally, in 1876, George L. Speakes bought out Thurman.

The name of Jethro Bass, a barber, first appears as a newspaper advertiser in the Sullivan Democrat in 1863, although he had come to Sullivan in 1860. In 1863, shaves cost ten cents on weekdays and fifteen cents on Sundays.

Samson Shalter was in the saddle and harness business in 1863, the year M. Chase became Postmaster and moved the Post Office across the street to a building at the west end of the south side where he had a general store. The News Depot remained in the building on the west side of Court Street.

In July, 1863, Frank M. Lucas sold his drug store and bought an interest in John Bridwell's firm. The partnership dissolved the next year, but Bridwell continued.

Willie W. Owens opened a livery stable north of the newspaper office in 1863. Dr. Ziba Foote moved from Commercial Row to Stewart's Block. Gore & Crane opened a general store under the Democrat office. Owens & Roach opened a new grocery store on the north side of the square in the fall of 1863. A few months later, Roach sold out to A. J. Owens.

A. McGuire and Oliver Dudley applied for a license to sell liquor in September, 1863.

John T. Gunn had a law office upstairs at No. 4 Commercial Row in 1863. Benjamin F. Havens was an attorney and notary public upstairs at No. 7 Commercial Row in 1864. Photographer John Dunn was in business at No. 6½ that year.

Mrs. A. J. Parks and Mattie Starks opened a millinery shop in 1864.

W. H. Crowder sold reapers and mowers at his hardware store in 1864. It moved to several different locations and changed partners before he sold out and moved to Terre Haute in 1872.

(over)

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Joseph W. Wolfe and Daniel Langdon were attorneys and claim agents in 1864; M. Malott and H. K. Wilson advertised as bounty and pension agents. Gazway and Johnson set up a photography business in a tent. Another photographer, W. W. Johnson, appeared in 1865.

David Crowley of Fairbanks advertised his new glass hearse in 1864, and said he had been in business 15 years. He sold out to William T. Fordyce in 1865.

John Whitman started a furniture store in 1864, and James Kelly soon bought out his partner, Joshua Ernest, in the hardware and farm implement store in 1865.

Mart Troll and James Bucks formed a boot and shoe business in 1865, and the Messrs. French and Van Fossen raised the framework for a new flouring mill near the Depot that year.

The barber shop of Jethro Bass continued to thrive. In 1865, he sold his own manufacture, a hair tonic and dandruff remover. In 1868, he opened a new shop in Shalter's former saddler shop, and in 1875 broke ground for his "new palatial barber shop." The next year he advertised "Bassonian Sea Foam for dandruff, falling hair, etc."

More changes came along in 1865. F. Basler sold the hotel east of the railroad depot. Johnson & Company opened a tannery near the woolen factory.

To show Sullivan's prosperity, another liquor and oyster saloon complete with billiard room was opened by McGuire & Dudley. O. Moore and F. Basler,Jr. had opened an oyster saloon previously. Free delivery of groceries was advertised in 1865 also.

As the Civil War ended, the third drugstore in town was opened by Dr. J. R. Hinkle and Tom Reid. It joined the Mammoth and Dr. Coffman's.

In a later column, Sullivan's saga from 1866 to 1878 will be continued using the late Dr. Maple's notes of local happenings.

Pioneer Carlisle area and settlers reviewed

Ind Co Sullivan

History (Ind)

TS APR 15 1979

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

At the beginning of the 19th Century, the whole country north of Vincennes was a wilderness controlled by the Indians and scarcely more civilized hunters.

In 1801-02, a small settlement was established near where Carlisle now stands. In 1803, a few persons settled near Bruceville and reached towards Shaker Prairie.

While hunting for deer in 1804, Col. Vigo and Samuel Small discovered a fine piece of land. They reported it to John Widner, who was then making shingles for General Harrison's house. He went to see it, and obtained permission from Harrison to make a location now known as Location No. 1.

In the spring of 1804, he moved to it and put up the first house in the township. His brother-in-law, Andrew Wilkins, had located directly across the road on land known as Location No. 2. Wilkins came with Widner, and shortly after married and settled on his land.

In the fall of 1804, two other families were added to the neighborhood. William Taylor settled and built the first water mill in 1806 on the branch which ran through his farm. Carrico and his family also settled there.

In the spring of 1805, Jacob Widner, son of John, was born, and a child of Taylor died, the first birth and death in the new colony.

In 1805-06, several other persons arrived, a man by the name of Ransford, and a man by the name of Harrington. Old Mr. Harrington was the first teacher when the schoolhouse was built on Location No. 2. Scholars were Reason, Basil, Nancy and Polly Carrico; Elizabeth, Sallie and Cassander Widner; Thomas, Betsy, Polly Taylor; Joseph and Henry Ransford.

In the fall, 1805, a Methodist preacher by the name of Wines commenced preaching at John Widner's cabin and continued once a month until the fall of 1806. He was followed by Pastor Walls.

Capt. Charles Polk came in 1806 with a large family. Worth relating is the family history. In 1782, the Indians captured the wife and four children of Capt. Charles Polk near Bairdstown, Ky. They crossed the Ohio river below the mouth of the Wabash river.

A party of Kentuckians gave immediate pursuit, but could not overtake them. After a wearisome journey of some weeks, they reached Detroit. The children were taken from the mother and adopted by various Indians.

The oldest, a bright little girl who afterwards became the wife of Col. Spenser, was taken 60 miles away.

Col. Depastre commanding the British forces at Detroit was a Mason. Capt. Charles Polk was also a Mason, and it was not long until communication was established between them which resulted in the return of the whole captured family, and one more. Charles Polk, the father of James and Isaac Polk, was born during the six months captivity of his mother.

At Vincennes, Polk met Lewis and Clark on their return from their celebrated trip west.

Polk's son, Charles, held a command under Gov. Jennings, and at one time during the War of 1812 commanded a body of troops at Edwardsport, then a military station.

All the Lemons of Maria Creek are descended from John Lemon who arrived in 1808 from Kentucky. Peter Hansbrough also came in 1807 with his family. In 1808, Samuel C. Chambers arrived from Ohio along with Joseph Liston.

Early in 1809, Samuel Ledgerwood married Mary Polk (or Lemon?), the first wedding of the colony. The same year Friend Lemon married Sarah (Polly) Hansbrough.

Maria Creek Church was organized at the home of John Lemon. There were thirteen charter members. The log church was built in 1813. The first resolution passed by the group condemned slavery by any group northwest of the Ohio river.

Early in 1810, Joseph Chambers and John Haddon went to the Indian towns near where Terre Haute now stands to discover the intentions of the Indians. They were received kindly and were invited to smoke the pipe of peace. However, they noticed the gradual disappearance of the warriors until all were gone by early evening.

Alone and on foot, the two men realized their danger. They retraced their route south until out of sight and then turned to the Wabash river. Making a raft of dry mulberry logs, they floated down river beyond the mouth of Honey Creek where they landed and made their way home on foot.

In 1812, Daniel Hollingsworth was killed by the Indians. They became so troublesome, it became necessary to erect forts in every neighborhood. Forts were built at the homes of William Polk, John Lemon, Charles Polk, William Taylor, John Widner, and one other location in the Maria Creek area. In these the people found protection until the war closed in 1815.

Michael Starner came in 1814, also Thomas Piety, the first white child born of English parents west of the Ohio river not far from St. Louis on the Illinois side. His father was a British officer before the American Revolution.

In 1815, John Keith made a permanent location on land southwest of where Freelandsville now stands. He came direct from the battle of New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815.

The same year Dr. Jonathan Colt arrived with a letter to the Baptist church at Maria Creek. He brought also about forty slaves which he freed, most of whom settled near Emison's Mill.

John Robbins, Sr. and his wife came from Kentucky on horseback, carrying all their possessions, and settled near where Freelandsville is now. The McArthurs and the Blevins came soon after and settled near them.

In 1816, Samuel Skomp arrived from New York and settled in Pan Pan Bend, a mile east of Sanborne. In 1815, Mr. Medley and his wife Lucy settled a half mile southeast of Joseph Chambers. Medley died while his children were very young. They were Joseph, Austin, James and Patsy, who married James Gannoe.

Abram Miller came from Jefferson county, Kentucky, in 1818. A society of Methodists was organized the same year. Charter members were Abram, Martha, Samuel, Maria and Ann Miller; Warren Pierce, Mary Caughman, Nicholas and Lavinia Davis. Miller refused to serve whiskey in the harvest fields or house raisings, but paid his laborers 12½ cents extra per day instead.

In 1817, William and James Jarrel came from South Carolina and settled in Chambers' neighborhood. James moved on to Greene county, and William moved northeast of Freelandsville.

Jonathan and Gabriel Cox arrived in 1820 with their families from Kentucky.

Next week's column will tell of the founding of the Maria Creek Church...

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Early Sullivan County data found in newspapers

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

TS JUN 3 1976

Reading early newspapers is one of the best ways to research any given area, and the information concerning Sullivan, Ind., and its founding were to be found in "The Western Sun" of Vincennes, Ind. Published 1804-44, this newspaper had frequent references to places, persons and happenings concerning Sullivan County and its inhabitants.

The first note has reference to the Indian inhabitants of the territory which became Sullivan County. It states that the Piaukashaws were the original Indians living here, but the Delaware Indians came in about 1760-65 and an alliance was formed between them against the Chickasaws, but land matters were not involved.

In the list of names of persons having letters waiting for them in the Vincennes Post Office as advertised Oct. 1, 1804, were those of James Brooks and Simon Vannarsdell.

In September, 1807, the "Sun" carried a controversy between Dr. Samuel McKee and William Henry Harrison. Daniel Sullivan was Clerk of the Knox County Court in 1807.

An item dated Dec. 2, 1807 relates that the Wabash Baptist Church, incorporated by Act of Legislature, was composed of those residing on Busroe, in Palmyra Township, south side of White River and west of the Wabash River. Located in Palmyra Township, Knox County, the church's first trustees were Robert Elliott, John Alton and William Bruce.

Letters for James Brooks were advertised again Jan. 1, 1808. Since letters were usually sent with the postage fee to be collected by the receiving office, it was necessary to advertise the list of letters on hand so that those to whom they were addressed might come for them and pay the postage. Occasionally the sending post office would collect the fee and write across the letter that the fee had been paid by the sender.

In the delinquent tax list published Jan. 27, 1808, occurs the name of Thomas Barton, near Snapps Mill, on Busseron Creek. Daniel Sullivan was the collector for these territorial taxes.

This same Daniel was married to Susan Sullivan, daughter of Capt. James Sullivan, of Jefferson County, Ky., on Feb. 28, 1808. According to the late Dr. Maple's notes, this Daniel Sullivan probably gave his name to the new county of Sullivan.

An election for State Representative was held in 1809 in Busroe Township at the home of John Haddon, for whom Haddon Township was named. Elected as representative in 1809, Haddon was defeated in 1810.

William F. Thompson, M.D., placed an ad in "The Western Sun" of Dec. 9, 1809, offering to teach school at his house in Busseron Township. He listed the subjects offered as reading, writing, arithmetic, English, grammar, Latin, Greek, geography, etc. The tuition cost was not listed.

Town plat

Most towns start from some two or three families building close together for mutual protection or because the spot chosen had some peculiar advantage as to water, timber, transportation or trade route.

Sullivan, however, was located by an act of the 1841 Legislature which sought to provide a county seat for Sullivan County which would be within one-and-a-half miles of the geographical center of the county so

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as to make its official services equally close to all its residents. This site was chosen after a surveyor had located the center of the county within the grounds of the present Center Ridge Cemetery.

The exact location of the town was chosen because of its elevation above the surrounding county, and because the owners of the land were willing to donate a major portion of the land. So, Sullivan became a town by official edict.

Bounded on the north by Beech Street, on the west by Section Street, on the south by Harris Street, and on the west by Broad Street, the original survey for the town was based with its western boundary on the section line between Sections 33 and 34, at the west line of the northwest quarter of Sec. 34. A block of squares running four blocks east to west and four blocks north to south was surveyed.

Outlots were surveyed at that time on the west side of Section Street and on the north side of Beech Street. The day after this survey was finished, May 26, 1842, a public sale was held and the town of Sullivan was officially on the map, 137 years ago.

The original town of Sullivan was located on 80 acres of land entered by Enoch Walls on March 6, 1838, the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 8 North, Range 9 West. Enoch and his wife, Nancy, deeded the land to James H. Reed, as County Agent, July 30, 1841, "to be laid off into town lots, and to be held, sold and used as a site for the seat of justice for the county and for no other purpose, Mr. Walls reserving one-sixth of the proceeds of the sale of the lots in his own interest."

Court House fire

This original deed and its record were destroyed when the Court House burned Feb. 7, 1850, and a deed was made to replace the first deed on Aug. 8, 1850. At the same time, another deed was made by Solomon and Lucy Walls for the same 80-acre tract to James Harris because Enoch and Nancy Walls had sold them the undivided one-sixth interest.

In addition to this 80 acres, Elias and Margaret Walls deeded 10 acres to the county on July 30, 1841. This deed was destroyed also and had to be replaced.

A 20-acre tract entered by Job Walls, Aug. 6, 1838, was deeded by him and his wife, Lovice, to the county. Solomon Walls exchanged other land with Job Walls to get him to deed this 20 acres to the town site. All of these people made new deeds after the fire to insure a good title to the land.

Matthew Mahan also deeded 20 acres to the county on March 29, 1842, and a second deed was made May 17, 1870, to cover this after the court house burned.

These various pieces of land, when surveyed on May 25, 1842, made the original plat of the Town of Sullivan to cover 129.59 acres.

Next week's column will continue the account of the early days of the Town of Sullivan, Ind.

Feather merchants and others in early Sullivan

JUN 10 1979

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Last Sunday's column told of the platting and public sale of lots in the new county seat of Sullivan County on May 26, 1842.

The business center of the new town was the intersection of Section and Washington Streets. L. H. S. (Hugh) Orr built a blacksmith shop on the northwest corner. Store buildings were built on the southwest and northeast corners, and a hotel was built on the southeast corner.

Soon a row of small buildings began to appear on both sides of Section Street, from Washington to Jackson Streets, and from Section to Court Streets. A log court house was built on the northeast corner of Washington and Court Streets, and then a row of stores began to grow east of the court house in that block.

A single store was built first on the southwest corner of Court and Washington Streets, but in a few years a number of buildings appeared south of this store. The blacksmith shop of Hugh Orr was probably built in 1842, and was the first business building to be erected in the new town.

The hotel built in 1842 by Sanders M. Howard also housed the first store in one of its rooms. This was run by the Weisard Brothers, but the first winter they were there they bought feathers for shipment to Pittsburgh. Being green at this business, they bought chicken feathers as well as goose feathers, and when their shipment reached Pittsburgh it was rejected. This financial loss so discouraged the brothers they quit business and left town.

By 1843, a store building was erected about one door west of Court Street on the north side by Major Isaac Stewart.

By 1855, Sullivan had become an incorporated town, and several business firms moved into the business section of town. The log court house which had burned in 1850 had been replaced with a brick structure in the middle of the square.

There was a flour mill on North Section Street built by Walls and Hinkle in 1854, and two or three sawmills operated in the northwest part of town. A tanyard was located on South Section Street, and there were three hotel buildings.

Commercial Row

On the west side of the square, Commercial Row was fast taking shape, and there were wagon and carriage shops and a furniture factory where coffins were built as needed.

Murry Briggs built a building on the northeast corner of Section and Washington Streets to house his weekly "Democrat" above and a store below.

The Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad was running its first trains late in 1854. The County Seminary built in 1846 had been closed in 1850, and private schools were trying to take its place, but the public school situation was chaotic and would remain so until the building of the old Central School.

There were three churches in the town, the first being the Methodist Church built in 1847 on the west side of the square, the Christian Church built in 1848 on the northwest corner of Wall and Section Streets, and the Baptist Church established in 1853 soon erected a church building on East Jackson Street.

Postmaster Hinkle

J. W. Hinkle, postmaster, kept the post office in his store in the second building east of Court Street. David Reed had a wagon, carriage and buggy shop on the east side of Main Street, one block north of the square. George Parks had a general store in the "Corner House" one door west of the post office on Washington Street.

Howard's first hotel changed its name to Railroad House late in 1854, and was run by J. P. Dufficey. Ben V. Wible was the proprietor of the Wible Hotel on the north side of Washington, west of Court Street. Later in 1855, it was sold to John Dodd and became Dodd's Hotel.

William Wilson, dealer in general merchandise, was at the southwest corner of Washington and Court Streets. B. Bischof had a men's clothing store in the former store of William B. Ogle at the northeast corner of the public square.

An interesting advertisement was that of David Crowley, who was then in Fairbanks, later in Sullivan. He offered furniture, coffins, funerals and a hearse.

Lawyers in Sullivan in 1855 were H. S. Hanchett, John T. Gunn, W. F. Neff

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and F. L. Neff, I. W. Boothe, and Samuel R. Hamill who had his office in the court house.

Fresh meat did not keep well, so it was killed and sold quickly. A. Anderson and J. Riggs of Carlisle peddled fresh beef and mutton at both Carlisle and Sullivan on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Jacob R. Fields had a meat market first door east of the post office, later moving to the corner of Washington and Main Streets where it became the "New Orleans Grocery Store."

Gunsmiths

George T. Cochran & Company had a gunsmith and branding iron shop on Section Street in the building where later DeVol and still later William McCoy also had gunsmith shops.

As early as 1854, G. F. Malott had a drug store on the west side. Dr. A. P. Arnold had his office in his home south of the Methodist Church.

J. M. Stansil was a watchmaker and jeweler east of the square on Washington Street. Dinkelspiel and Wile had a drygoods store, L. A. Stark a grocery store, and R. H. Freese a paint shop.

A neccessity in those days was a harness and saddle shop, and Overstreet & Miller (later J. W. Miller & Company) had such a shop on the west side of the square.

Changes of 1856

In 1856, there were many changes in the growing town of Sullivan.

G. W. Hanchett and James A. Thompson started a grocery store in Wilson's old stand. Hanchett bought out Thompson in December. J. W. Hinkle became Hinkle & Manwarring in 1856, and Major Isaac Stewart located one door west of them. Sherman & Davis were in groceries that year.

J. T. Carter and N. Crooks bought out the drug store of W. W. Owen, and a year later advertised 50 ounces of quinine and 10 pounds of opium for sale.

Fletcher Freeman bought out Dufficey's Railroad House in 1857. Mose Easter had a bakery one door west of the post office that year.

Hinkle & Walls dissolved partnership in the flour mill in 1859, and Irvin Catlin appeared on Washington Street. McGrew & Sherman sold provisions one door east of Catlin.

Built gradually over a period of several years, Commercial Row was a row of brick business buildings on the west side of the square. Beard & Lucas, later F. M. Lucas, operated a drug store at No. 5 Commercial Row in 1859. P. Gasway opened a picture gallery over this drugstore in 1860.

The little town of Sullivan was thriving as the Civil War broke out.

More from Dr. Maple's Sullivan saga—1866-1878

Ts JUL 15 1979

Ind, Co's — Sulli'v

Historically Community Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Some time ago, Dr. Maple's notes on the happenings of Sullivan area were brought up to 1865, the end of Civil War days. This account picks up Sullivan's saga from 1866 to 1878, the end of his note-taking.

A note in the Sullivan Democrat in 1866 reads: "Our old friend, Hugh Orr, who is one of our oldest settlers, having bought the first lot in the sale of town lots in this place 23 years ago, has sold out and is removing to Greene County.

"His venerable smithy, the oldest building in town, will soon be numbered among the things that were."(This smithy was on the northeast corner of Washington and Section Streets.)

In 1866 a new hotel, the American House, appeared on the east side of North Main Street, at the northeast corner of the square. The proprietor was Mrs. C. Milner.

Suggestions were renewed to organize a hook and ladder fire company in June, 1866, when a fire broke out in a two-story frame building occupied by Dr. J. B. Crowley as a residence and medical office. It spread to a blacksmith shop and adjoining buildings. There was much property loss and no insurance on the buildings. It was supposed the fire was caused by taking ashes up in a pine box.

Late in 1866, L. Goodman & Company of Terre Haute established a branch of their clothing store in Sullivan, selling it to Sol Goodman in 1871. At Sol's death, his brother Gus, who clerked in the store, bought the Pioneer Clothing House and continued it.

The names of W. H. Power and C. B. White appear in 1867 as commission merchants with a warehouse near the Depot. "Uncle Billy" Power became the janitor at the Court House in his later years and was long remembered by an earlier generation of Sullivanites.

In 1867, J. N. Van Skike was running a tannery at the south end of Section Street, and J. T. Music ran the City Drug Store.

In March, 1868, Dr. J. C. Morgan opened his dental office upstairs on the north side of the square. Williamson, Whitman and John A. McKinney opened a furniture store and stated "they have a hearse and attend funerals."

The Masonic Lodge leased the upper story of Lafe Stewart at the northwest corner of Washington and Court Streets and "fitted it up in excellent style."

The sheriff closed up Zimmerman's Tin Shop, and the Post Office moved on Court Street.

Millinery and Fancy Goods shops were opened by Miss M. Lusk, Miss Xenia Griffin and Miss Jennie Mayfield. Mantua (cape) making was a big thing in 1869.

The National House offered free omnibus to all trains and a daily line of hacks to Worthington, Merom and Robinson.

Even a cigar factory came to Sullivan in 1869 run by Lewis Eaton. John Otto, brewer of beer and ale, ran the Sullivan Brewery in 1870 at the northeast corner of Court and Beech Streets. He also ran a copper shop.

The Sullivan Concert Band which had been organized in the 1860s was disbanded in November, 1871. Martial and patriotic airs were no longer needed.

On August 19, 1874, the Handford Brothers struck coal at 201 feet, a three-and-a-half foot vein. That year Hymera had two stores, one wagon shop, one church and parsonage, two doctors, and the post office was Hymera, although the town was still called Pittsburgh by most of its inhabitants.

In 1871, Fairbanks had three drygoods stores, two wagon shops, one blacksmith, carpenter and chair shop, harness shop, a drug store, two physicians, paint shop and carriage trimmer, a nearly completed church, a Masonic lodge, and schoolhouse and post office.

A gravel road was constructed 1870-71 from the end of Duncan's lane over the marsh in Gill's Prairie a half mile due west. Two feet of gravel was used in a road bed 30 feet wide, with "good ditches on the east side full length."

The town calaboose burned down in 1870, and the County Commissioners ruled that they would not pay more than five dollars for a pauper's coffin.

New Lebanon in 1870 had one store,

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a provision house, two blacksmith shops, a wood workman, a tanyard, a couple of shoe makers, a good two-story school and a rather "decrepit M. E. Church."

In 1872, the County Commissioners tried to form a new township to be called Madison from the south half of Cass and the northern part of Jefferson with a corner of Haddon, but nothing came of it.

In 1874 the Commissioners paid $212 for lightning rods on the Court House, and $1,500 for an iron fence around the Court House yard.

To point out a long-forgotten business, in 1870 Dick Laden of Currysvil cut three million staves in his stave factory.

In the 1870s there was a constant forming and dissolving of partnerships in all sorts of business ventures, new buildings were built, firms moved from one location to another, and were bought and sold with great regularity.

It was possible to buy a five cent Havana cigar from Nels Wilkey at his downtown store. Medicated vapor baths were opened in 1875 in the old Post Office building.

The southwest corner of the public square was a gun shop and machine shop owned by Bill McCoy. It was known as "Fogs Ferry" and was the Sunday meeting place of the town's hunters and fishermen. Little boys kept very quiet and listened with both ears to the tall tales that were told there.

In April, 1876, Dr. Cavins built a fine new residence at the southwest corner of East Jackson and State Streets in Sullivan.

In September, 1872, an insane inmate of the County Poor Farm set fire to the "Mad House" which burned to the ground. It was decided to construct a separate building for incurably insane persons, and contracts were let.

And, oh yes, Shelburn was declared an incorporated town at that meeting April 10, 1871.

To end this series, here are two diverse items.

The Farmers National Bank declared a two percent dividend out of earnings for the past five months, after paying for all its fixtures on Feb. 6, 1878.

Also that year, the county jail was described as an iron cage made of boiler iron, with a brick wall outside. There were three cells on each side, with a wide hall between and an iron floor. Sounds sturdy enough for those century-ago criminals.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts NOV 4 1979

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Secession advocated in Parke County as Civil War began

Clark, Dorothy

Parke County's role in the Civil War began Jan. 23, 1861, when John T. Campbell published in the Rockville REPUBLICAN a well-written letter advocating peaceable secession.

At the same time from all parts of the county came reports of public meetings where men pledged themselves to preserve the union at the risk of losing lives and property.

Next followed the famous speech of Gov. Oliver P. Morton advocating the nation's right to fight for its existence, though its enemies in certain states objected, and its right to coerce the rebellious states if necessary.

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was attacked; April 13, it was compelled to surrender; April 14, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, and on April 16, as soon as the news had reached Parke County, its people vowed to uphold the Union, and if need be, die for it.

A recruiting officer arrived the next day, and the first man in Rockville to enlist was Charles E. Adamson, a typesetter for the Rockville newspaper. G. H. Hansel, who walked from his home at Bridgeton to Brazil in Clay County to enlist, signed the sheet two hours before Adamson, making him the first to enlist from Parke County.

Others enrolling at Rockville on April 17 were W. N. Painter, R. R. Smith, J. F. Meacham, Zach Garrett, E. M. Foote, I. E. Wright, Dan A. Anderson, George Sanderson, Jim Steele, J. A. Wilson, Jacob Neron, Samuel L. Compton, William S. Coleman, James R. Painter, John A. Pike, David Byers, James R. Hollowell, W. N. Ralston and Jobe Graves.

Of these 20 men who left the next day for Indianapolis, only 15 passed the physical examination, but later in the war when the army was in greater need of men, they enlisted and marched off with the older Parke county soldiers.

The new men accepted at Indianapolis were assigned to Company C, Eleventh Indiana Regiment, commanded by General Lew Wallace, and took part in the three-months campaign in West Virginia, in the battles of Phillipi and Laurel Hill.

Hollowell fought in the bloody battle of Kelley's Island. His squad of eleven men on a scouting party came upon about 50 Confederate soldiers. Firing from tree to tree as they fought their way out, they lost only two men.

Company A

The first full company that left Rockville on May 18, 1861, went to Camp Vigo in Terre Haute. Its officers were L. A. Foote, captain; Thomas Williams, first lieutenant; T. A. Howard, second lieutenant, and Robert Catterson, orderly sergeant.

At the same time, Captain Wheat enrolled 40 men in Rockville, and the remainder in Rosedale. Capt. Foote's group became Company A of the Fourteenth Indiana, and voted to go into service for three years.

On June 8, the day after the company was mustered, the ladies in Rockville gave a dinner at Camp Vigo for Company A, and presented a dress sword to Capt. Foote.

Before the men left Terre Haute, G. W. McCune, of Rockville, was appointed assistant surgeon of the regiment, and Nathan H. Kimba ll was commissioned as colonel. They left Camp Vigo on June 25, and from Indianapolis were sent directly on to Virginia.

After serving some months, Capt. Foote and Lt. Howard resigned; Lt. Bostwick was killed at Antietam, and Capt. Kelley was killed at Fredericksburg. Lt. Baker's leg was shot off. The command of the company was then given to Joshua L. Hayes, who had enlisted as a private.

They participated in the battles of Greenbrier, Winchester, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness and Cold Harbor, where they were ordered to Indianapolis and mustered out, having served three years. Those who "veteranized" were transferred to the Twentieth Regiment and remained until the end of the war.

Company H

John T. Campbell, who was rejected from the 14th because of no teeth, came home and began raising a company. On June 30, the men at Annapolis elected him captain; Thomas Bryant, first lieutenant; James Connelly, second lieutenant, and William P. Wimmer, adjutant. All the men were under 30 years of age.

Assigned to Col. McMillen's Twenty-first Regiment, they became Company H, and from Indianapolis went directly to Baltimore for the winter. In the spring they took ship for Newport News, and became part of the Army of the Gulf, under General Butler.

Wabash Riflemen

This was the little company of men raised by Fred Arn and W. H. Beadle. Rendezvousing at the fairground at Montezuma on Aug. 6, 1861, they elected Arn, captain; Beadle, first lieutenant, and Dr. Richard Waterman, second lieutenant.

They left Montzuma carrying a flag presented by the ladies, and were kept in Camp Vigo until Sept. 21, then ordered to Evansville, where they drew rifles and went to Kentucky.

During the long, dreary winter,

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they suffered much sickness, and in February went to Fort Donelson and fought gallantly through that bloody battle. The next fight was Shiloh, where Major Arn was killed. His body was returned home and buried at Montezuma with Masonic honors.

This company stood fast in the hot battle of Murfreesboro and went down to "the valley of death" at Chickamauga. They came home as veterans on Jan. 1, 1864, and returned in time for the Atlanta campaign, taking part in the awful slaughter at Jonesboro which ended that historic campaign. When Hood made his desperate raid back upon Nashville, they were sent with the division to overtake him and engage in the battle of Nashville. The company was mustered out Dec. 8, 1865.

Parke county's efforts in the Civil War will be continued next Sunday.

More on Parke County's procession to the colors

Historically Speaking

TS NOV 1 1 1979

By Dorothy Clark

Last week's column began the story of Parke County's participation in the Civil War. Today's column continues the procession of those Parke County men who marched off to join the Union army.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, a company was organized in Parke county called the "Penn Guards." George Harvey proposed that they go into the United States volunteer service, and fifteen men volunteered.

Recruiting was begun at once, and Harvey was elected captain, William Geiger, first lieutenant, and James Hollowell, second lieutenant. He later became colonel of his regiment.

This company was mustered into the Thirty-first Regiment and became Company I. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing, Capt. Harvey was severely wounded and while being carried from the field was shot through the head and killed instantly. His remains were brought back to Rockville and escorted to his father's home, two miles north of town, by the Rockville Union Guards. He was buried in Rockville Cemetery, and his tombstone tells of his military service.

The history of Company I is the same as Company A. Both companies, after the battle of Nashville, were transferred to the Army of Occupancy in Texas, and mustered out Dec. 8, 1865.

Company K

John Callender raised this company, aided by William S. Magil, William Sweeney, V. B. Bonsell and Samuel Garrigus. The company collected at Camp Vigo in Terre Haute and decided not to elect officers until completed.

On Oct. 29, Callender was chosen captain, Magil and G. H. Hensel, first and second lieutenants. A fine sword was presented to Magil by the Parke county citizens, and Company K was presented with a handsome flag by the Rockville ladies.

On July 4, General Steele was commissioned colonel of the regiment, which left for Spottsville, Ky., on Nov. 17. From there they went to Calhoun where they stayed until February, 1862. Company K fared better than other commands because of Steele's interest in the health and surroundings of his men. His resignation the following January was deeply regretted by his men.

The company was transferred to the Department of Mississippi and most of its service was along that river. There they were with the Forty-third Regiment, the first Union soldiers to enter Memphis after the war began. From Memphis they were sent to Arkansas, fighting in the battle of Helena on July 4. This regiment captured a full rebel regiment of greater number than the Forty-third.

At Little Rock, they reenlisted as veterans and were sent home on furlough. They returned to Indianapolis and were never sent to the front, but guarded rebel prisoners until mustered out on July 14, 1865.

Ninth Battery

This command was raised by Capt. Thompson, of Evansville, who recruited about forty men in Parke county. The rest of the battery came from Montgomery county. Organized at Indianapolis, they left for Cairo, Ill., where they were drilled and sent to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., arriving April 6.

Because they were all so young, they became known as the "Boy Battery," but became known for their bravery and ability. Tragically, only ten of the men survived the steamer explosion which killed, scalded or wounded the battery a few miles out from Paducah, Ky.

Civil War Years

In 1862, the demand for soldiers was greater than in 1861, and Parke county responded by the hundreds. Company G of the Seventy-first Infantry left Montezuma for Camp Vigo, then Indianapolis, before seeing much action from Kentucky on to Andersonville and Libby prisons.

In July, 1862, 120 men, mostly from Rockville and Bellemore, left Parke county and became Companies C and D of the Seventy-eighth Indiana. Ill-fated from the beginning, they were attacked by a large rebel force on September 1 and forced to surrender. They were paroled and sent to Indianapolis where they were discharged.

Company A, Eighty-fifth, was raised in August, 1862 at Annapolis, in Parke county. They traveled to Camp Vigo, Camp Morton, and Camp Wallace at Covington, Ky. Capt. Abner Floyd was killed at their first battle in Tennessee. They joined Sherman's army in Chattanooga, and fought in the battles of Cassville, Dallas Wood, Golgotha Church, Culp's Farm, Peach Tree Creek and many more until Atlanta fell. Company A went with Sherman on his march to the sea and were finally discharged at Indianapolis.

Company B, Eighty-fifth Indiana Volunteers, enrolled July, 1862, and left Camp Dick Thompson at Terre Haute in September for Indianapolis

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and Cincinnati to Kentucky where it struck Kirby Smith's raiders. It soldiered through the "dark and bloody ground" and was captured at Thompson's Landing in Tennessee and sent to Libby prison where nine men died.

After release and exchange, they participated in the march to the sea and on to Washington, D.C. for the Grand Review before being mustered out.

Company F, Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, was organized in the fall of 1863. Despite promises to mount the men and place them on active duty, they were scattered by companies along the Memphis and Charleston railroad in the spring of 1864 in Alabama, where disease killed more than the bullets would have.

In the fall, the regiment was mounted at Nashville and sent to meet Hood's army at Columbia, Tenn. At Franklin and Nashville, the regiment lost many men in numerous battles and was sent west in May, 1865, riding from St. Louis to buffalo ranges in western Kansas. They were brought back and mustered out that fall.

Answering a call for 20,000 men from Indiana in August, 1864, to serve one hundred days, Company H, Indiana Legion, "Rockville Guards," left Indianapolis for Nashville, Tenn., and from there to Bridgeport, Alabama, where they performed guard duty until mustered out. They were never sent to the front.

Another group known as Company D, One-hundred-thirty-seventh Regiment, was also recruited and sent to Nashville and on to Tullahoma for guard duty.

From first to last, Parke county sent out fourteen full companies and more than half of five other companies, probably not less than 2,000 volunteers for the Union cause between 1861 and 1866. And, remember, these were from a county that had a population of less than 5,000 when the war broke out.

'Terrehaute' of Knox County made news 170 years ago

Ind. Co-Knox

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Historically Speaking

Ts DEC 9 1979

By Dorothy Clark

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An excellent source of historical events — the who, what, why, where and when of 170 years ago — is the Vincennes newspaper when this part of the Indiana Territory was all Knox County.

As early as 1809, a society was formed in Knox County "for the encouragement of Agriculture and the useful Arts."

The name of Francis Vigo, for whom Vigo County was named, appeared in a legal notice as executor of the "Estate of Dr. Samuel McKee, who died Nov. 5, 1809."

An item dated March 19, 1810 states that Joseph Ledgerwood, under general orders for the Militia, was made Major of the Second Battalion, First Regiment, in Knox County.

In the Post Office list of letters waiting to be picked up for July, 1811, appears the names of Robert Gill and Jacob Widner.

Daniel Sullivan was an adjutant in 1811.

An advertisement of W. T. Thompson in 1811 speaks of a new public road, north from Vincennes, extending up to and through the new public purchase. This was probably the beginning of the plan for a stage road north from Evansville to Terre Haute.

An item dated Nov. 9, 1811, notes the building of Fort Harrison on the Wabash river "two or three miles above Terrehaute." At this time, there was only one Harrison, William Henry Harrison, so when the fort was named, it was called "Fort Harrison" and everyone in that day knew the man whose name it bore. It was never named "Fort William Henry Harrison," according to some historians.

John Widener and Jacob Widener had letters waiting for them at the Vincennes Post Office on April 1, 1812.

Tax sales of 1812 list Thomas Barton of "Busron," and John Law, north of the Wabash.

The early newspaper told of an early Indian incident. "Near the close of the siege of Fort Harrison in 1812, a four-horse wagon loaded with supplies for Fort Harrison, was being sent from Vincennes.

"Lieut. Fairbanks, with a squad of soldiers, was sent along to guard it. When they had reached a point on the trail near the narrows of the Wabash river, which place is about three miles west of the present village of Fairbanks, they were attacked by a band of Indians and all were killed but three.

"Two of these men were able to run and escape; the third man was the wagoner, John Black, who hid between logs covered with wild grape vines."

Fairbanks Township and the town of Fairbanks were named for this heroic Lieut. Fairbanks.

The "Western Sun" of July 10, 1813, carried an advertisement that reads like an early attempt at government-controlled medicine.

"The subscriber having been appointed by the President of the United States as agent for vaccination, hereby gives notice that Genuine Vaccine Matter will be furnished to any physician or other citizen of the United States, who may apply to him for it.

"The application must be made by post and the requisite fee ($2) in current bank paper of any of the middle States, forwarded with it. When required, such directions, etc., how to use it, will be furnished with the matter as will enable any discreet person, who can read or write, to secure his own family from the small pox with the greatest certainty and without trouble or danger.

"All letters on the subject to or from the undersigned and not exceeding half an ounce in weight are carried by the U.S. Mail free of postage, in conforming to the late Act of Congress, entitled 'An Act to encourage vaccination.' (signed): James Smith, U.S. Aqent for Vaccination, Baltimore."

George Harper had an advertised letter at the Post Office in September, 1812. "Stone Coal" was offered for sale by John Stealy on the White river in the Dec. 8, 1812 edition.

On Jan. 14, 1813, Daniel Sullivan (for whom Sullivan County was named) was promoted to Colonel of the Indiana Militia.

A duel was reported between Permeuas Beckes and Dr. Edward Scull in July, 1813. Beckes was killed, and Scull left for further West.

Advertised letters of August, 1813, were addressed to Parker Aydelott and Miccaye Goodwin.

An interesting advertisement appeared in the May 16, 1814 issue. "Grist mill for sale. Will be exposed to public sale on the third day of June next, a saw and grist mill with five acres of land, lying on Busseron Creek, formerly known by the name of Ledgerwood Mill. Twelve months credit will be given.(signed) William Ledgerwood."

This mill was the first and for sone time the only mill in Sullivan County and surrounding territory. There was another mill belonging to the Shakers down below the Ledgerwood Mill. The stone burrs of this mill were, many years later, bought by a Mr. Abbott and moved up just west of where Dugger now is located and were used in the Abbott Mill. These stone burrs were still at the site of this mill up to a few years ago. Where are they now?

An interesting advertisement appears in the "Western Sun" on Nov. 21, 1814. "Theatre — She Stoops to Conquer — Curtain to raise at six o'clock precisely. It is particularly requested that no cigars be smoked in the theatre."

Whether this was an early fire precaution or proof that cigars in those days were pretty rank is unknown.

James Baird was killed by Indians while plowing in April, 1815. The next month, May, 1815, the Morrison Creek Massacre was a major news event.

To relate all this to the immediate Terre Haute area, there were only a few log cabins here as most of the settlers lived close to Fort Harrison. There was an Indian village located where the Pillsbury Plant is now on the banks of the Wabash river. Terre Haute would be platted and lots sold the following year, 1816, and Indiana would officially become a state that year.

However, Terre Haute would not have its first newspaper until 1823, and local settlers would still be dependent on news from downriver and the old "Western Sun."

Pages from a few Parke County histories explored

Ts JAN 27 1980

Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Biographical histories are modern man's answer to the earlier customs of erecting mausoleums, monuments and statues to chronicle achievements and great deeds. To be forgotten has been the great dread of mankind from remotest ages. As long as paper, books and libraries remain, the names and accomplishments of early settlers in the Wabash Valley will be preserved.

Gen. Mahlon D. Manson, named for Gov. Mahlon Dickerson of New Jersey, who was secretary of war under Gen. Jackson, was born near Piqua, Ohio, in 1818.

He became a druggist's clerk to support his mother, and moved to Indiana in 1842 to teach school in Montgomery County. He studied medicine, but continued as a druggist in Crawfordsville.

Manson served as an officer in the Mexican War, and in 1851 was elected to the General Assembly and became active in politics. When the Civil War broke out, he raised the first company in the county under Gen. Lewis Wallace. In 1862, Pres. Lincoln promoted him to Brigadier General. After being seriously wounded in battle, he was forced to resign in 1864.

He returned home to enter politics, but was defeated in several elections before being elected to Congress in 1870. He served as state auditor in 1876, was elected lieutenant governor in 1884, but resigned to become collector of internal revenue in the Terre Haute District. He was a member of the commission in charge of building the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Indianapolis, active in veterans and Masonic affairs.

Gen. Manson married Caroline Mitchell of Crawfordsville, and they had six children.

Joseph Milligan was the seventh of eight children of David and Sarah (Wallace) Milligan, born near Harrisburg, Pa., in 1814. His father came from Ireland and his mother was of Scotch-Irish ancestry who settled in this country about 1765.

Milligan remained on the farm until he was 19, emigrating to Montgomery County in 1833 where his elder brother John had settled in 1830 in the village of Waveland. His first job was in a store in Crawfordsville, but his boss expected him to handle whiskey so he quit.

With $10 in his pocket, Joseph started down the Ohio. He went as far as "The Narrows" of Sugar Creek, a trading point, and worked for John Mitchell who took flatboats of pork to New Orleans. Milligan learned merchandising at Jacksonville, Waveland and Crawfordsville. He also took flatboats down river.

During the Civil War he bought Rockport Mills and furnished supplies to the army, organized a bank, and was first president of the Crawfordsville & Southwestern Railroad, later purchased by Vandalia. He bought thousands of acres in Iowa and Kansas and sold at great profit. In 1839 he rode over the country on horseback visiting Iowa City and St. Joseph's, Mo. (then called Milligan's Landing). In 1864 he was elected to the State Senate.

Milligan married first Janie M. Hawkins. His second wife was Harriet N. Fullinwider of Waveland. Their children were Harry J., who became an Indianapolis attorney, and Anna Allen, who becane her father's business assistant.

Adams Township in Parke County was named for Philip Adams, born in Virginia, whose father came from England to America. Philip went to Ohio prior to the War of 1812 in which he took an active part. He settled in Ross County, near Chillicothe, and became a farmer and stock-raiser. He had three children by his first wife. After her death he married Mary L. Chestnut and they had four children: Harvey, David who became a physician in Edinburgh, Ind., James, who died in Missouri, and Marion, a lawyer.

In 1830 Philip Adams moved to Indiana and located seven miles from Terre Haute, where he farmed four years before moving to Parke County. Before his death in 1845, he owned 240 acres.

Harvey Adams, his oldest son, took over the farm and enlarged it to 2,300 acres, all in Washington, Adams and Jackson townships, Parke County, the third largest landholding in the county.

He and his wife Eliza A. Crothers, daughter of John Crothers of Vermilion Co., Ill., had eight children: John W., near Montezuma; Mary A., wife of Josephus Ott; Joseph, Indianapolis; Emma, wife of S. C. Trueblood, Indianapolis; Albert M., Rockville; Lucy O., who married Albert Overman, Rockville; Lewis E., farmer, and Anna L., who died young.

Johnson Puett and his father, Col-

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man Puett were among the earliest settlers of Indiana, migrating from North Carolina in 1820 to Monroe County. Johnson died in 1891, at the age of 84, a successful farmer owning 700 acres in Parke County.

His son Samuel D. Puett was born 1846 on a farm located five miles east of Rockville. He attended Rockville Schools, Bloomingdale Academy, State University of Indiana at Bloomington, and was graduated from Asbury College (now DePauw University). At Rockville he entered the law office of Judge S. F. Maxwell, and soon was admitted to practice law at the Bar of the State.

His partnership continued until Judge Maxwell's death in 1877. In 1883 he formed a partnership with Hiram E. Hadley until Hadley went to Washington in '89. Three years later the firm of Puett and Adams was formed with Albert N. Adams. Puett married Judge Maxwell's daughter, Mamie E., in 1873, and their only child was S. F. Maxwell Puett.

The Kerr family of Parke County goes back to Thomas Kerr who emigrated from the north of Ireland at the close of the Revolutionary War. He located in Westmoreland County, Pa., and married a Scottish girl. When their son James was eight years old (he was born 1791), they left Pennsylvania and settled in Fleming County, then Macon County, Ky., where Thomas died 1851.

James Kerr served in the War of 1812 and in 1816 came to Indiana where he purchased a farm about 1½ miles from Bridgeton. At that time there was not a house in all Parke County. James returned to Kentucky, visiting Parke County again 1817, before returning to Kentucky to marry Sarah Merrill. In 1822 they came to Parke County, where she died in 1824 leaving three children: Mary, who became the wife of Joshua Webster and mother of nine children; Susan, who married John R. Webster and reared seven children; and Samuel, who sired nine children.

James Kerr married second Mary Hartman, who was born in Virginia. The Hartman family came to Parke County in 1818. James and Mary had nine children. She died 1884 and he in 1876.

Their children were: Elizabeth, who married Jacob B. Miller; Virginia, wife of John H. Williams; Zurelda, wife of James Dailey; Armenta, who became second wife of Dailey; John Thomas; Sarah, who married Oliver Holmes; Thomas Jefferson; George Washington, and James H. "Tip" Kerr.

buffalo roamed

The Wabash Valley — where the

Ts AUG 3 1980

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Probably the first white man to see an American bison, the mighty beast that was to become known later as the buffalo, was the Spanish explorer and conqueror Hernandes Cortez. He described the bison in the private menagerie of the Aztec monarch Montezuma in Anahuac as "...the Mexican bull, with the hump of a camel and hair like a lion's..."

This particular animal, a full-grown buffalo bull, stood six feet high at the shoulders, was nearly 10 feet long, and weighed about 2,000 pounds, pounding the plains near and far.

According to anthropologists, bison came to Alaska sometime during the middle Pleistocene period, or roughly about 400,000 years ago. After crossing the land bridge then existing between Asia and America, buffalo drifted southward, fanning out as they went. Eventually they ranged in enormous numbers from Canada far down into Mexico, and from Pennsylvania westward through the Wabash Valley and on to Oregon.

Vigo County, at one time, was near the center of the buffalo population.

The first European to see the buffalo in its wild state was Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca who kept a written record of his journey from Florida to the Pacific in 1528-36. He first saw the buffalo in what is now Texas. In 1540-42 Coronado and his men, searching for the mythical seven cities of gold, saw great herds of buffalo in their long march through territory now made up of Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

Castenada, Coronado's chronicler, was unable to estimate the number of these "monstrous beasts" and listed them as "numerous as fishes of the sea."

Nunez and Coronado brought to the Great Plains the two factors which, combined with men's greed, wrought the almost total destruction of the buffalo—the horse and gun. Before the coming of the horse, the Indians hunted buffalo on foot. Mass kills, designed to secure a winters' supply of meat, were made by driving hundreds of buffalo over a steep cliff onto rocks below. On the open plains the best method was to decoy buffalo into corrals where they could be slaughtered with arrow and lance. Braves dressed in fresh buffalo hides lured the slow-witted beasts into the death traps.

After the arrival of the horse, these wasteful methods were not needed. Riding his well-trained horse, a hunter could follow a herd for miles, shooting fat cows with arrows or bringing them down with lance thrusts. It was not unusual for a man to kill 40 to 50 a day. The Indian seldom used firearms in hunting buffalo until the advent of repeating rifles in the 1860s.

The buffalo meant life itself to the Indian. All parts of the animal were used. Buffalo skins were his winter clothing, his bed and blanket, his tepee, moccasins, leggings and shirts.

Boats were made from fresh hides stretched taut over green willow or cottonwood hoops, the famous "bull boats" of the mountain men. Water buckets were made from the lining of the paunch. Thread and bowstrings were made from tough black sinews; spoons, bows and ornaments came from scraped and polished horn. The massive ribs made excellent runners for dog-drawn sleds. Glue was made from the hooves. The short, tasseled tails were used as fly swatters. Even the stones found in the gall bladders were used in making "medicine paint."

Strangest of all, in the white man's thinking, was the special treat or delicacy, the foetus cooked in its own enveloping fluid. Buffalo droppings, or "chips" furnished fuel in regions where firewood was scarce.

The Indian invented pemmican, the first concentrated meat ration. Buffalo meat was cut into thin strips, dried on racks in the sun, and pounded almost to a powder, mixed with buffalo fat and poured into lengths of buffalo intestines or rawhide boxes.

When mixed with edible berries this ideal diet kept the Indian well nourished and free from scurvy. White explorers learned this also.

French explorers gave the bison his classic misnomer, the word buffalo derived from the French "le boeuf" or the bull. Over the years as English speaking trappers, traders and settlers poured onto the plains, the name changed to "buff" and "buffler," finally ending up as "buffalo."

Actually the American bison is not a buffalo at all, being of the family *Bovidae* which includes cattle, sheep, goats and antelope. The name buffalo applies scientifically only to water buffalo, or Philippine *Caraboa*, and the African buffalo. However the name buffalo is too firmly attached to the bison ever to be changed.

Hunting buffalo solely for their hides never occurred to men until the lucrative beaver trade petered out in the late 1830s. Hide hunting developed gradually over the next decade until, in 1845, 90,000 skins were sent to market. It was estimated that nearly 20,000,000 buffalo were slaughtered to produce 90,000 marketable robes.

Until the arrival of the white trader with his guns and whiskey and flashy stock of worthless gewgaws, the Indians were true conservationists, but the younger braves now turned to killing for profit rather than food and shelter. One pint of trade whiskey, composed of four parts water to one part cheap raw alcohol and a dash of red pepper, was the going price for one good skin worth $5 to $10.

A package of 12 steel arrowheads, produced in bulk for the Indian trade and costing six cents a dozen was rated an even exchange for a first grade robe. Smoothbore flintlock muskets with abnormally long bar-

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rels were turned out by eastern gunmakers for the buffalo robe trade. Before the gullible red men grew wise, it was common practice to demand and receive buffalo hides piled as high as the gun was long in exchange for it.

Greedy squaws kept their men on the hunt to provide vermilion, beads, awls, blankets, red and blue cloth, flimsy knives, and kettles offered by traders in exchange for skins. Sugar and what was called coffee was eagerly sought by the Indians at outrageous cost.

Indian chiefs tried to stop this destruction of livelihood, but young braves continued the slaughter for the trader's junk. As early as 1850 the vast herds had dwindled to an estimated 20,000,000 animals.

By 1863, robe trade with Indians was enormous, but buffalo were still so numerous as to "cover the entire country with a vast, moving brown blanket." One herd was described as covering an area approximately 25 miles wide and 50 miles long.

Early pioneers in Parke County tell history

Ts APR 19 1981

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

Macauley, one of the great English historians, once said, "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people."

So, today, instead of events and places, read about some of the early pioneers of Parke County. In the life of every pioneer man and woman is a lesson that should not be lost to those who follow after.

Edward Bradfield of Sections 15 and 23, Adams Township, was born in 1841 in Columbiana County, Ohio, and came to Indiana with his parents at the age of 12 years. At the death of his father, William Bradfield, in 1863, Edward took over the management of the estate.

His mother, Sarah (Robison) Bradfield, lived 20 years longer. She had 10 children, seven living to adulthood. Reason and Levi lived in Wabash Township; Hannah Jane, wife of Theodore Marshall, lived in Adams; Arminda, wife of Joseph McAdams, also lived in Wabash. The family settled in Rockville in 1852 prior to moving out on farmland.

Edward Bradfield married first in 1867 Sarah Jane Cox, daughter of John B. Cox. They had five children, William A. and Reason E., both of whom married and lived in Adams Township; Minnie Inez, a school teacher and Seth M. and Myrtle, who died in infancy. Mrs. Bradfield died in 1882, and next year he married a widow, Cynthia Louis, daughter of Peter Pence.

For 13 winters Mr. Bradfield taught school in the neighborhood, was assessor, a pillar of the Union Christian Church, and superintendent of the Sunday School.

John H. Chenoweth was a native son of Parke County, born in Union Township in 1868, and a farmer in Section 12 of Adams Township. His father, Cornelius B. Chenoweth, was an early settler of Parke County, living near Bridgeton before moving to Vermillion County.

When John was 13 years of age, the family returned to Parke County, but in 1883 moved to Gentry County, Missouri, for a year, returned to Raccoon Township, and then to New Discovery.

In 1891, John married a widow, Alice E. (Collings) Adams, daughter of Archibald B. Collings, another Parke County native.

George T. Durham, farmer and stockraiser of Howard Township, Parke County, located on Section 24. He was born in Boyle County, Ky., in 1846 to Jesse Y. and Martha Durham. His grandfather was John Durham, Revolutionary War soldier, who emigrated to Kentucky and then to Indiana at a very early date. He was the father of nine children.

Jesse Durham also had nine children, seven of whom survived. They were John, a farmer and physician of Sullivan County; George; Crittenden, who lived on the old homestead; Laura, wife of William Rue of Danville, Ky.; Joseph, a bookkeeper for a bank in Indianapolis; Joshua B., horse trader in Terre Haute, and William, a farmer at Waveland. Jesse Durham represented his county in the state legislature.

George T. Durham who came to Indiana at the age of four, married in 1880 Betty Elliott North, daughter of Henry North, Bullitt County, Ky. They had four children, Julia Belle, Rosalie, Roscoe Conkling and Henry. In 1890 he was elected township trustee.

William J. Gilkeson, son of John, was born in 1823 in Augusta County, Va. His mother was Jane Brownlee. Grandfather Gilkeson was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

John went to Ohio in 1829, and in 1837 took his family to Parke County and purchased wilderness land from General Howard. He died two years later after this, and it fell to the children to improve and clear the land.

In 1852, William married Rachel, daughter of Archibald Strain, and they had one child, Issac. She died in 1853, and six years later he married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Adams, early settler from Kentucky. They had four children, William who lived in Texas; Samuel of Terre Haute, Edna Jane and John Thomas.

historically speaking

Thomas Ratcliff, a native of Ohio, was the first white man to settle in Section 36, Mill Creek Township, Parke County. He cleared huge forest trees from the land acquired from the government and in turn made it a productive farm formerly known as "Indian Green," with the creek being called "Green."

His son, Miles Ratcliff, married first Susanna Eubank, daughter of L.C. Eubaknk, prominent pioneer farmer of Parke County. They had six children, Mary A., James W., Jacob W., Jonathan A., Charles A., and Louisa, who died young.

His second wife was Jane Angel of Putnam County. They had three children, Sarah C., Susan A. and Miles A.

According to a biographical sketch, James W. Ratcliff married first Ellen, daughter of Ambrose Day. She died in 1871, and he married again in 1872 Rulana Clem, daughter of Samuel Clem, early settler of Warren County. They had two children.

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Historically Speaking

Parke County settlers show U.S. as land of opportunity

Community Affairs File

To H. Tribune-Star March 7, 1982

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

Some of the early pioneers of Parke County were living proof that America is the land of opportunity.

In 1893 James T. Buck was editor and owner of the "paper without politics or religion," the Parke County News of Bridgeton. He was born in 1857 in Raccoon Township, about three miles south of the village of Bridgeton, the son of the Rev. T. M. Buck, known as "the fighting and marrying parson."

The parson was a strong Republican and Abolitionist, and his Scots blood would fire up in a minute when he heard anyone uphold slavery. The first thing he knew he was threshing the earth with his opponent's body. This gave him his title of "fighter." Because he had married nearly 5,000 couples, more than any other preacher in the state, he received the "marrying" title.

Born in Ohio in 1837, Buck's ancestors were Scots people who had left their native land during the religious troubles and settled in North Ireland. Thomas Buck, the grandfather, migrated to America at the close of the Revolutionary War.

T. M. Buck came to Parke County to teach school. He held religious meetings in school houses, log cabins, etc., and in 1859 was ordained to preach. For one year he was in charge of the Sandford circuit, north of Terre Haute, but in 1860 returned to his farm near Bridgeton.

From 1867 to 1883 he conducted a business in Brazil, and had charge of the churches at Bridgeton, Salem and Bee Ridge.

The son, James T. Buck, at the age of 15, learned the printer's trade at the Western Mirror in Brazil. He was a farmer, constable and followed the trade of tinner. In 1882-83 he was with the Secret Service in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, returning to open a tin shop in Brazil.

In 1885 he married Emma Graber of Clay City and purchased the Clay City Reporter, which he published until 1889 in addition to operating a tile factory. He was also elected marshal of Clay City. After his first wife died leaving two children, he married Martha A. Beauchamp of Bridgeton.

All pioneers of Parke County, the Jacks family came from the south. Reuben Jacks was born in Surrey County, S.C. in 1809, the son of Richard Jacks. In 1818 they moved to Tennessee. Here Reuben married Hannah Ervin in 1830 and moved to Indiana, landing in Parke County with 50 cents in his pocket.

He worked at what ever job he could find until he had saved enough to make the first payment on a farm. At that time corn was worth six cents a bmshel on six months credit. Reuben worked night and day to meet the payments on the farm. By 1850 he had cleared three farms and owned 370 acrez of land under cultivation at his death in 1874. Reuben and Hannah had 13 children.

Another old Parke County family, the Sappenfields, were of German ancestry, and Mathias Sr. was one of 12 sons. Several of these zons came to America and served in the Revolutionary War.

Mathias Jr. was born in 1790 in Fayette County, N.C., where he married Christina Grimes in 18ll. Following his service in the War of 1812, the young couple moved to Shelby County, Ind., in 1823, where they settled and farmed for two years.

Next they moved to Parke County, settling on the Little Raccoon in what is now Greene Township. Here he entered land from the government, erected a flour and saw mill, and continued farming. The father of 11 children, he lived a full and useful life until his death in 1873.

One son, Charles W. Sappenfield, was born in 1836. After graduation from Indiana University in 1863, he studied law under Judge Mack in Terre Haute. In addition to graduation from law school, he manufactured pumps, owned a farm, and manufactured shinglez. By 1889 he was making five million shingles a year. In 1867 he invented a dray saw which was very profitable, and a washing machine which he never patented but gave to the public.

The Catterson family of Parke County has an interesting history. James was born in Donegal, Ireland, where he was reared and married. Farming was not profitable in Ireland, so he migrated to America about 1790 and settled first in Kentucky.

His son, Robert, taught school for $12 per month when he was 18, then married and had 10 children. The family moved to Montgomery County in 1843 and a few years later to Sugar Creek Township, Parke County. When school was not in session, he was a farmer. He served in the War of 1812, fighting under General Jackson, and died in 1847.

Robert Jr., like his father, married at 18 and worked for neighboring farmers for 25 cents a day until he rented a farm and finally was able to buy 60 acres of partly cleared land. When he married Jane Woman, he owned a gun and a two-year-old colt, while she had only her clothes.

The first spring he cleared 18 acres and sowed corn. The next spring he raised a wheat crop that nearly paid for the farm. In 1875 the first wife died leaving a son, William. He married Mary Hagan and had six more children: Cynthia, Sarah, Daniel, Patrick, Minnie and Zurilda.

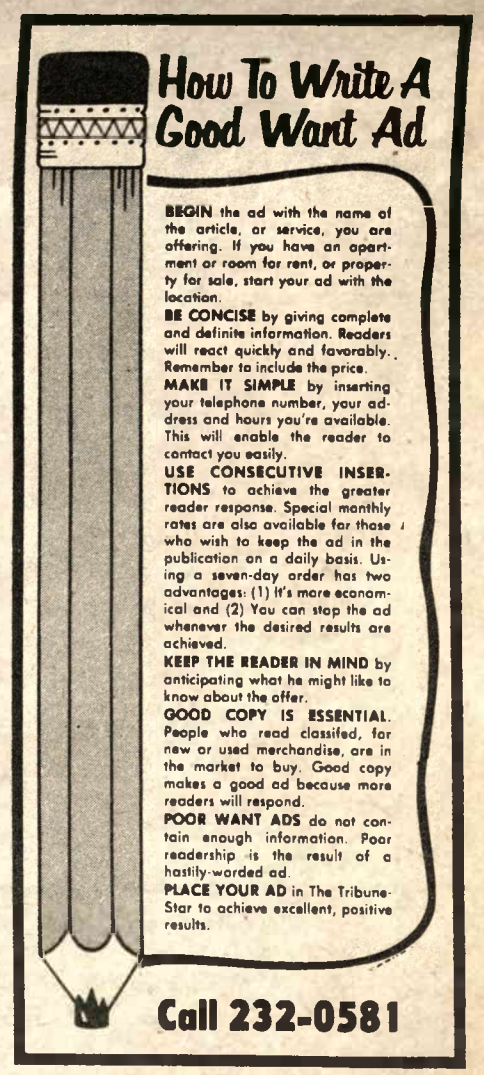
Another well-known Parke County pioneer was Dr. William Overton Stone of Rosedale. His great-grandfather Thomas Stone was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His father, Henry Stone, was born in Virginia in 1803, the son of Samuel Stone.

Dr. Stone was born in 1834 and came to Indiana in 1852 on the only railroad in the state which ran from Madison to Indianapolis. For the next several years he studied medicine with Dr. S. P. Clark of Putnam County, graduating from Louisville University and from the Cincinnati Eclectic College.

The young doctor located in Rosedale, opened an office, and became one of the most prominent doctors in the state. He became widely known through his papers published in medical journals. He married Minerva C. Durham, and they had two children. He owned farm land and a fine stock of thoroughbred horses which he exhibited at all horse shows and fairs.

After 36 years as a doctor, he was quoted as saying "I have come to the conclusion that the practice of medicine is a humbug, but the practice of surgery is a science."

Descendants of these Parke County pioneers still live in the same communities their ancestors worked so hard to settle. Others have scattered over the state and to other states.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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY...

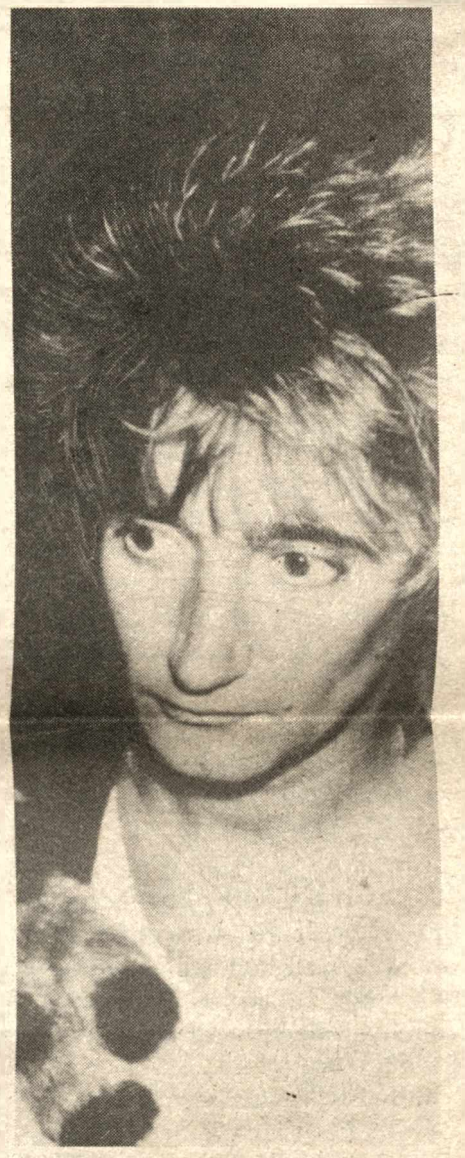
By Josie

IN THE REAL "WHOSE LIFE IS IT, ANYWAY?" CATEGORY: Producer Ron Samuels got himself into a bit of domestic hot water recently by announcing that he'd bought the TV fights for a film on the late actress Vivien Leigh and that he was interested in pursuing Jane Seymour for the lead role. Obviously, this didn't sit too well with Mrs. Samuels, Lynda Carter, who thought her manager-husband would present such a plum to her. Seymour opted out and Samuels decided to resolve the dilemma by casting about for an unknown, while keeping Lynda busy on other projects. But still there was the matter of Leigh's former husband, Lord Laurence Olivier, who gives clearances on material relating to his life. No problem, according to Samuels, who cleverly dispatched one of his employees — Lana Wood, sister of the late Natalie Wood — to talk to the great actor. Natalie and Lord Olivier had been chums.

TWO MORE THINGS THE WORLD REALLY DOESN'T NEED: The Flower Council of Holland just invited Victoria Principal over to celebrate the Dutch-American Bicentennial with the major prize, the honor of having a flower named after her. The last to be so honored was the patron saint of flower arrangers — Nancy Reagan.

Q. *My friend and I are still solid Beatle fans and we had an argument about their early days. She says Brian Epstein really did create the group's success, I say they did it themselves. Who's right? S. Cushman, Belmont, Tex.*

A. History is on the side of your friend, but at least one ex-Beatle agrees with you. According to Paul McCartney, their late ex-manager was influential up to a point, but the Fab Four were always in control. "Brian looked after the dates, the recording contract, the money," he says, "but we always decided the policy. If he said that we should do something, chances are we'd do something else." He even states that the Big Decision to put the scruffy lads in suits was made by the scruffies on their very own, as were other matters of image. But McCartney will concede an Epstein contribution here or there. "A few times he'd say, 'You guys really ought to wear these shirts tonight.' And we would."

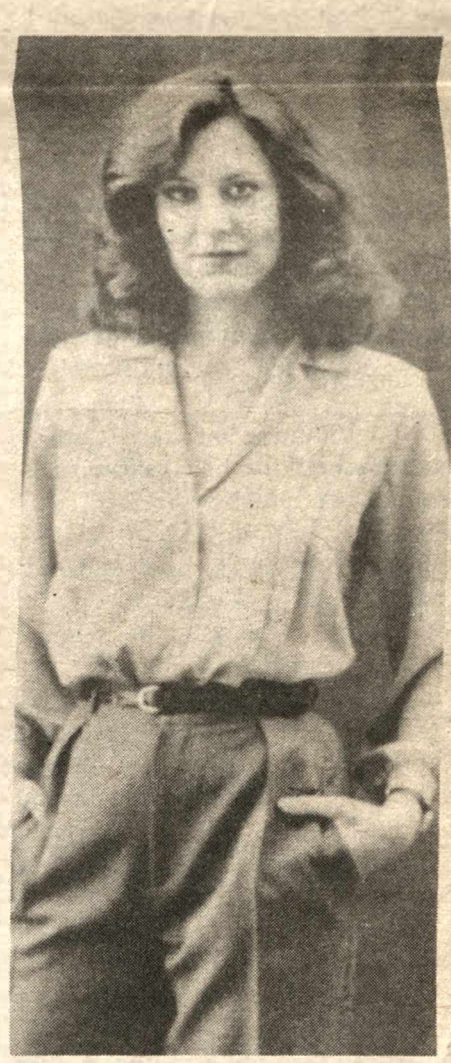


Q. *Whatever happened to the movie Rod Stewart made based on his song, "The Killing of Georgie"? B. Campbell, Franklin, Mass.*

A. It's the old Hollywood story: Rod was all gung-ho to make his acting debut, but the production company ran out of money, so no financing, no movie. He'd still like to get into acting, and at some point in the future, will look around for a role. But as a friend of his says, "Right now he's having a better time with his music." Perhaps when age catches up, or he outgrows his leopard pants, he'll change his tune.

Q. *I just loved Christine Lahti in "Whose Life Is It, Anyway?". Considering the roles women usually get, wasn't she thrilled to play the role of a doctor? J. O'Connor, Manteno, Ill.*

A. She should have been, but she says she wasn't. The statuesque Ms. Lahti, who previously played a lawyer opposite Al Pacino in "And Justice For All... " feels she's getting typecast and that's against the actor's credo. Besides that, says Lahti, it's "boring" and she would, she says, rather take a crack at playing a "really ditsy woman." Tough luck — we bet Loni Anderson would have traded her whole collection of sweater dresses just for an audition for "Whose Life."



Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.

Community Affairs File

Mills dotted Parke County streams

Clark, Dorothy + Parke Co. Mills
Community Affairs File

Historically speaking

DEC 18 1983

By Dorothy J. Clark

The first mill at Armiesburg, Parke County, Ind., was built in the early 1820s just above the riffle on which Gen. William Henry Harrison's army crossed the Big Raccoon Creek and camped in 1811 while on its march to the battle of Tippecanoe.

This was a log mill, built on mud sills, and had a brush dam. There was no solid rock on which to build. The mill's builder was Abner Cox who operated it until retirement when John W. Underwood took it over.

The burrs were old French burrs, three and a half feet in diameter, two for grinding wheat and one for grinding corn. The water wheel was a bucket wheel, an old style turbine.

Later this mill was torn down and replaced with a three-story frame structure with mud sills. A new dam was made of hewed logs. This second mill was built and operated by Arthur Patterson, and later by his son, James Patterson.

At the death of Arthur Patterson, the ownership fell to Judge C. Y. Patterson. Then it was operated for some years by J. W. Russell. Following the death of Judge Patterson, the property was sold by John Beach, the administrator of Terre Haute, to Acquilla Laverty about 1890.

Laverty remodeled the mill, made a stone basement, installed new machinery, a new turbine wheel and a steam engine to be used when the water was low. The burrs were discarded, and rollers were installed. A stone dam was constructed on pilings.

Laverty and his miller, James Ghormley, operated the mill for a few years when he decided to move it to his farm and convert it into a steam mill and grain elevator. While the elevator was being constructed he fell from the building and was fatally injured. He died five days later on Dec. 1, 1896. The mill was never rebuilt. A saw mill was combined with the first flour mill, but not with the other mills.

Armiesburg was the second county seat of Parke County, and one or more sessions of court convened there in 1823. It was an important business center in the early history of the county. There was a hotel, a number of stores, shops, a slaughter house and a pork-packing house.

All of the flat boats on Big Raccoon, Little Raccoon, and Leatherwood creeks passed through Armiesburg to reach the Wabash River, a mile and a half west of town. A good many boats were built on the creeks and taken to Armiesburg and sold to shippers engaged in the river traffic. The common price of a boat 50 by 12 feet was $100. When the cargo was sold in the southern market, the boat was sold for lumber.

A closed (covered) bridge was built near the mill at a very early date. It was claimed that a part of the lumber was sawed with a whip-saw. Julius Egbert and Charlton Britton sawed all the large timber for the bridge, a Howe truss type begun in 1853. The whip-saw was later owned by Joseph A. Britton, son of Charlton, builder of several other Parke County bridges. The Armiesburg bridge contract was let to Henry Woolf for $6,500. The bridge was condemned and removed about 1915, and a two-span concrete bridge built in its place. By 1925 there were no traces left of the site of Armiesburg and the old mill.

Mathias Sappenfield entered 160 acres of land east of Parkeville in 1837 or 1838, and built a mill on the south branch of Little Raccoon Creek on this farm in 1842. It was 32 by 26 feet, three stories high, and the burrs were granite boulders and ground wheat and corn. A saw mill was combined with the grain mill. He abandoned his mill in 1856 to 1857, due probably to the fact that the dam washed out.

Another mill on this creek was built near the southwest corner of Section 16, Greene Twp., by Daniel Bruin Sr. It was equipped only with corn burrs. When he died, his son, Daniel Bruin Jr., operated it, but it vanished long ago.

John Grimes built a little corn mill on this creek west of Russellville at a very early date. The Portland Mill on Big Raccoon Creek eclipsed the little mills of Greene Township and they ceased to operate.

The nearest village was Parkeville, on the west line of Section 21, in Greene Twp. It was a platted town but not incorporated. In its heyday there were stores, a blacksmith, wagon-maker, and other shops. The last physician was Dr. James I. Norman who was also the postmaster. The town was reduced to a few residents receiving rural delivery in 1925.

Mr. Wade built a mill on the east bank of Little Raccoon Creek a half mile east of where the town of Judson now stands. The mill, the miller's residence, and a little store at the intersection of the roads was named Pin Hook. This mill soon went down in a freshlet and was not rebuilt.

William Barnes moved from Mercer County, Ky., to Parke County in 1828 and settled on a farm at Pin Hook, Section 24, Washington Twp. He built his mill in the 1830s west of Wade's mill, and near the present bridge. In 1845 he rented the mill and farm to his son, Edward Barnes, who farmed and ground wheat and corn for 18 years. He also bought more land, engaged in pork-packing and shipping farm produce to New Orleans on flatboats.

The mill was abandoned in 1869, but Barnes continued acquiring wealth and owned 1,200 acres. He built a fine home near the old mill site. His widow occupied the house after his death until it was destroyed by fire April 26, 1896.

Israel Morlan built a mill about 1840 on Little Raccoon Creek at the ford three-fourths of a mile east of Sand Creek Station. It was a frame two-story building with a garret. The east bank of the creek was high and firm, sufficient for building, but the west bank was low and sandy. The dam was a hollow frame, built on the sandy creek bed, and the water pouring over it soon washed out a basin 10 feet deep. This made an excellent fishing hole according to the old-timers.

The wheel was a turbine. One set of burrs ground corn; the other, wheat. A saw mill with a sash saw was combined with the grist mill. The second mill owner was Col Baker, the third was Mr. Hollowell, and the fourth and last was John Calender. The mill was abandoned at the close of the Civil War.

Three small mills were built on Miller's branch, a small stream that flows into Little Raccoon a short distance aboveMorlan's mill. The first was built about 1833 by Samuel Webster at the mouth of the stream. A little further up the branch was a pony saw mill built by Daniel Miller. Still farther upstream, Moses Harlan built an oil mill which he sold to John Mater. This mill ground and pressed flax seed to produce linseed oil. By the number of these oil mills in Parke County the pioneers must have devoted much land to the cultivation and use of flax. The north boundary line of the Indiana Tuberculosis Hospital grounds (built 1910) was near the site of Morlan's Mill.

The life of these early communities centered around their mills.

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Valley heritage

Spec Only

Clark, Dorothy + Pioneers (Hist)

Community Affairs File

Exploring Parke County's pioneers

Ts FEB 24 1985

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The pioneers of Parke County, Ind., shared an amazing number of similarities to have come from such varied ethnic backgrounds and from so many different locations.

They all seem to have one or more ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812, and they all came from large families.

Choosing 10 pioneers at random, it was interesting to test this theory.

Daniel Duree, a merchant and postmaster at Bridgeton, was born in 1831, third in a family of seven children. The Durees traced their ancestry to a great-grandfather who emigrated from Germany to Virginia.

This early Duree later moved to Kentucky where he married and had a son, Samuel. He was killed by Indians while his wife barred herself and small Sam inside the log cabin and fought off the attack until help arrived.

This grandfather, Samuel Duree, grew to manhood in Kentucky where he married and reared a large family. Greatly opposed to slavery, he moved his family to Indiana in 1818, settling near Portland Mills, Parke County. Later he went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he died in 1850.

His son, George, Daniel's father, was born in Kentucky in 1801. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Bullington born in Virginia of Irish ancestry, and his wife, daughter of William Mitchell, a Revolutionary soldier who died in Parke County when 90.

Daniel Duree was sailing the Mississippi and Ohio rivers on flatboats by age 16. Next he tried farming, then worked as a carpenter until he enlisted in the Civil War. Wounded in battle, he was appointed postmaster in 1863. He married and had nine children.

Paul G. Spencer was one of the oldest pioneers of Parke County in 1893. Born in 1824 in Washington County, Ind., to James K. and Martha (Guthrie) Spencer, his father was from South Carolina, the son of John of Scotch-Irish descent who came to America in 1790.

John was a weaver by trade but became a farmer. His mother died on the voyage to America and was buried at sea. His wife, Nancy Kalmore, also from northern Ireland, came to America before the Revolutionary War in which her father and brother took part.

Named for his maternal grandfather, Paul Guthrie, Spencer was one of 13 children. He was married first in 1847 to Jane R. Steel, daughter of Nathaniel Steele who had arrived in Parke County from Virginia in 1833. After her death he married Catherine Westbrook and sired six children.

Harrison Boyd, successful land owner in Adams Township, Parke County, was born in Tennessee in 1818, sixth in a family of 12 children born to William and Huldy M. (Epison) Boyd. William Boyd was born in Virginia, the son of John Boyd who served in the Revolutionary War from North Carolina before coming to Indiana and settling first in Hendricks County and then in Parke County. Huldy was also the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, William Epison.

Harrison Boyd was married

Community Affairs File

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1846 to Rebecca Lewis of Ohio, settled on 118 acres of land and had seven children.

Daniel D. Fisher came to Indiana in 1829. A portion of his farm was land entered from the government by his father, George Fisher, born in 1780 in Pennsylvania, in turn a son of George Fisher, veteran of the War of 1812. A maternal grandfather fought in the battle of Bunker Hill.

The Fisher family started from Ohio in wagons for its 17-day journey to Indiana. In 1844 Daniel D. married Mary Ann Marshall, and produced 10 children. In later years he liked to tell about his experiences flatboating to New Orleans nine times.

Daniel Webster (not of dictionary fame), the proprietor of the Bridgeton Mills, was born in 1830 in Raccoon Township, next to the youngest of seven children of Reuben and Mary (Miller) Webster. Grandfather Samuel, a Scotsman, emigrated to America at the close of the Revolutionary War and became a planter and mill owner in Virginia.

Reuben, youngest in a family of 11 children, came to Indiana about 1816. Daniel was named for his maternal grandfather, Daniel Miller, prominent Dunkard preacher. Married three times, Reuben sired 14 children.

Daniel married first Maria Hartman who had three children. He married second Nancy Crabb and had four children. He lived in Vigo County about 15 years where he opened up extensive coal mines. In 1882 he bought the flour mill at Bridgeton which had a capacity of 100 barrels a day.

☆ ☆ ☆

NEXT SUNDAY: We will continue with the last five of the 10 pioneers of Parke County chosen at random for striking similarities in their genealogy and patriotic ancestors.

in own hands

T s APR 1 4 1985

Merom boys took justice

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Capt. Abner Vickrey was said to have built the first house on the present site of the town of Merom — a small one-story log cabin with a lean-to kitchen.

In the fall of 1815, he came to what is now Sullivan County from Kentucky after surviving the Battle of New Orleans in January. With his family he built the first cabin on the old Tippecanoe trail near a ferry on the Wabash river.

During the winter of 1815-16, the Vickrey family was threatened by unfriendly Indians in their new home. They made their escape down the Tippecanoe trail to the Harrison Ford across Gill's Prairie to the French blockhouse where they sought protection. One child, Christopher, was transported with his mother on a sled across the snow to the blockhouse.

The Vickrey cabin was a squatter location along with several other cabins erected later on land that had not been entered from the government. Vickrey and his family never returned to the cabin.

The land on which the Vickrey cabin had been built was taken up by John White some time in 1816 and entered by him in 1819 after the establishment of the land office at Vincennes. Later White either sold or rented the cabin to a Frenchman who operated a small tavern there, largely for the sale of liquor to the river men as it was convenient to the nearby ferry.

In 1824 the Frenchman sold the cabin to David McDonald who placed an advertisement in the Vincennes Sun in April, 1825. "To Travelers — The subscriber has opened in the house formerly occupied by D. Fargueran in Merom, Sullivan county, Ind., where travelers can be accommodated as well as the country will afford, and on reasonable terms. His stable is good and well furnished, his table and bar plentifully supplied, and nothing shall be neglected (on his part) to make the weary traveler comfortable. (signed) D. McDonald, Merom, Indiana, April, 1825."

Paul Lindsey came to Merom in 1860, at the outbreak of the Civil War. During the war he lived in a strongly built log house at the north end of the island that was located north and west of Merom Bluff. There was an underground room where he received and distributed stolen goods brought in by boat, held social brawls and met with his friends — a disreputable bunch of thugs and thieves.

At that time the island belonged to neither Indiana nor Illinois, and when he established himself there he knew that people on both sides of the island were trying to get rid of him. For five years he carried on his business, defying the law officers of both states, and living for a time in Merom.

Law abiding citizens were kept in a constant state of fear and indignation of what Lindsey would do next. Galloping horse thieves at night, pistol shots, mysterious river craft approaching the shore in the moonlight and knocks on the door told of wrongdoings.

Lindsey seldom left the island except at night. Sitting on the legendary cracker barrel in a grocery store, he had told a group of men that he would kill any man for $10. Outraged by this arrogant statement, the men felt like killing him. When they had assurance that he had done quite a lot of that crime himself, they decided to take the matter in hand. No conscience-smitten wives voiced any reproval.

When they captured him, he was sitting outside his house with a pistol in his lap. He crossed a clearing on a sycamore log, saying, "I have crossed on this log a thousand times, and this is my last crossing." He handed his pocketbook to a doctor in the crowd and

Community Affairs File

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asked that he give it to his wife.

Paul Lindsey was killed for the crime of horse stealing, but the women of Merom had formed a league against him. His wife was a washerwoman and had confided to her employers some of the goings-on of her husband and his cohorts.

Through her confidences the women became aware of his murder of Sal Little, the large, uncouth girl friend of Lindsey or of one of his associates. Her body was found later buried in a shallow grave on a farm in the vicinity of Palestine, Ill. She was positively identified by her flaming red hair.

It was 1865, and the Boys in Blue of Merom and vicinity had returned from the war. They had been killing gentlemen, they said, so they led out willingly and with zest to kill this nefarious rogue whom they remembered as posing as an educated and brilliant fellow when living at the hotel.

One Sunday morning a horseman stopped at various doors and gave the signal. The clattering hoof beats of the horses were soon heard and the determined expressions of their riders observed.

Tradition has it that they put Lindsey into a boat and that some 40 men, from both Indiana and Illinois, shot at once.

His body may have been buried, but was probably unceremoniously dumped into the river. They burned his home, so it is not impossible that the body was cremated.

The island was called "Paul Lindsey Island" since that time. No member of the lynching party ever in his lifetime divulged the details of the act. As time went on, the children and grandchildren of those who took the law into their own hands, for the sake of justice, have given the information that they knew from memory or family tradition.

The laws were changed to allow officers to pursue a fleeing criminal across a state line. The island became a peaceful one, with fishermen occasionally putting up in shacks, and nearby students from Union Christian College rowing happily in canoes along its bank.

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Community Affairs File

Merom festival drew top names, hordes of people

Clark, Dorothy (4)
Merom
T s AUG 4 1985

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

It all began in 1874 when a Bible school provided summer classes for Sunday school teachers in Chautauqua Lake, N.Y. As its popularity grew the public was invited to attend the varied musical, dramatic and educational entertainment.

The summer events were called the Chautauqua (pronounced shuh-taw-kwa) after the name of the place where it all began. Other small towns and country audiences welcomed the opportunity to take part in one-week Chautauquas. At its height, before the days of automobiles and radios, it was estimated that Chautauquas reached over 10,000 towns and perhaps five million people. By the 1920s the Chautauqua had passed into history.

One of the most popular places was the old Chautauqua House at the entrance to Merom Bluff Park in Merom. The eight-room house with two baths, six fireplaces, sun porch and greenhouse was built in 1861 by Dr. Harper for his son's wedding present. At least six owners lived in the house before restoration was begun by the present owners, Linda and Jim Cutter. The smallest room is 16 by 19 feet, and there are trapdoor facilities for concealment of escaped slaves traveling by the Underground Railroad.

In August each year from about 1912 to 1917, Merom College and two residents of Hutsonville, Ill., across the river, Arthur Everingham and Frank Kopta, arranged weekly Chautauquas. As many as 300 people at a time attended, especially on Sundays, from Terre Haute, Hutsonville and the Merom countryside.

On the preceding Saturday, boatloads of people would arrive at Hutsonville to enjoy Newlin's Bathing Beach located near the east end of the present Hutsonville bridge. At that time, no bridge was available. The local ferry charged five cents to get across the river. There was wading, swimming and diving for men and boys. Bathing suits could be rented for 25 cents each. Food and nickel cold drinks were available at this popular beach resort area.

There was music and dancing on the boat. Depending on the weather, overnight visitors lodged with Hutsonville people, or slept on the boat or beach. By 8 a.m. all passengers had to be aboard for the trip downstream to Merom Landing. The Chautauqua crowd would watch the Hutsonville crowd climb up the steep bluff road carrying picnic baskets and blankets for the noon meal.

All the space around the Chautauqua tent was taken up by surreys, wagons, buggies and tents used for sleeping quarters by campers. There was even a livery barn for riding horses of campers. Children attended with their parents and were trained to sit quietly and learn something.

The old Chautauqua House was used as the lodging place for speakers, actors, musicians and singers who often performed from the front porch stage. The audience sat in a tent close to and facing the house. Classical music, good plays, comedy, educational speeches and sermons were included on the programs. Sometimes the stage was under the tent with the audience. Standing-room-only crowds stood outside the tent or sat on the grass.

Popular performers included Billy Sunday, William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft and Helen Hayes. Most appeared free of charge except those who traveled great distances. On one occasion Helen Hayes was reported to have been greatly embarrassed when a buggy wheel broke down while she was being taken from the train to the tent.

The old Chautauqua House still stands, but television has taken over the entertainment and enlightenment of Wabash Valley residents. A resident of the Burnside Home in Marshall, Ill., Estella T. Shawler, wrote about her memories of attending the 1912 Chautauqua at Merom to hear Taft and Hayes. She and her husband, L.A. Shawler, drove their Model T Ford to Merom. Her home was in York Township, West Union, Ill. She was born in 1888, the daughter of Isaac Thompson who bought 100 acres and built his home near the southern tip of Anderson Township.

Marshall, Ill., was their trading center 12 miles away. They would drive into Tretz's Wagon Yard to feed and water the team. The charge was 25 cents. They also bought feed, corn and hay there. The Thompsons traded at John K. Black's grocery store where she saw her first telephone. Her mother sold bunches of rhubarb, onions and radishes from her garden to the grocer.

Dr. Bradley was the family physician. When there was a death in the family, the undertaker came the day of the funeral with the casket and an artificial wreath. Any traveling was done on dirt roads, and the ring of the horses' hooves on the brick pavements of Marshall was well remembered. The family ate at Foley's boarding house where they could also purchase a newspaper.

By 1900 their home was on Route 1 and mail came once a week. Rural people depended on the weekly visit of the huckster wagon and the foreign "Pack Peddley" man who sold table linens from his back pack. When he stayed in a home over night, he would pay for his board and room with merchandise.

Mrs. Shawler told of walking over two miles to the Choctaw School in all kinds of weather. There were 85 students enrolled in this school. The teacher, Aunt Sarah Bartlett, walked five miles to school. Another teacher she remembered was Charles Buebeck. The school offered eight grades with an extra year as a review year.

When the family left Anderson Township, they purchased a 160-acre farm for $15 an acre from Edwin Booth in Melrose Township.

Clinton

Daniels helped bridge gap at

Ts OCT 05 1986

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

A letter written on Sept. 10, 1851, by A. B. Condit from Clinton, Ind., to Joseph J. Daniels at Loveland, Clermont County, Ohio, tells of the first plans for construction of a covered bridge across the Wabash River at Clinton.

"Friend Daniels — Dear Sir — I have been spending four or five days at this place," Condit wrote. "There is to be a bridge built across the Wabash here. I have been making the necessary examination of the crossing facilities, of getting timber, stone, etc., with a view of bidding on the work. The estimates of cost have not been made yet, but I. L. Williams, Canal Engineer, is expected here in a few days to make the survey and estimate. It will be let this fall. The supposed cost is $25,000, from that to $30,000."

Condit explained to the bridge builder that the stock was subscribed up to $25,000. Of this total, $16,700 was to the Wabash & Erie Canal, and the balance by the farmers and citizens of Clinton. He explained that "the pay is good, no question about that. Examine Local Laws 1850-51 for the Clinton Bridge Company, and you will see the charter."

Condit reported that Long's plan was to be used, with probably four piers and two abutments. The bridge was to be 600 feet long. He thought their prospects to get the job were very good.

"I am acquainted with some of the Directors myself," he wrote, "and what is more lucky still, I find that even your fame has spread to this far corner of the world. Mr. William P. Dole, who is the leading man in the bridge matter, knows you and your father. His father worked with yours in Ohio."

Condit had represented himself to Dole as Daniels' partner under the firm name "Daniels & Condit Bridge Builders." He asked Daniels not to deny the partnership.

They planned to bid on the whole project, with Condit taking the masonry and Daniels the superstructure, unless they decided to share. The partners planned to meet at Big Raccoon on or near Sept. 20 to make further plans for bidding.

"On receipt of this (letter)," Condit wrote, "write me at Terre Haute and tell me what you think about the matter. Did you ever build any piers yourself and do you know of any good boss masons among your acquaintances that can be had to superintend the work? Yours in haste, (signed) A. B. Condit."

Beckwith's history of 1880 states that "any history of this section of Indiana would be incomplete without due mention of the venerable Joseph J. Daniels of Rockville, Parke County, one of the real historic characters of this locality and one of our worthiest citizens."

Daniels was born in Marietta, Ohio, on May 22, 1826. Of Yankee parentage, his father, Steven Daniels, was born in 1797, and his mother was Sophia Warren. Steven built houses first, then later bridges. In 1819 he moved to Olean, Pa., working as a carpenter, then moving to Ohio where he built bridges until his death in 1853.

According to Beckwith, Joseph J.

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Daniels began working with his father when a young man and continued until his death. In 1851 he came to Parke County to build a bridge in Union Township, and on March 6, 1861, located permanently in Parke County.

Most of the bridges in Parke County are monuments to his engineering skill and his honest workmanship. He built more than a dozen bridges in the county, and a dozen in Vermillion County, three in Putnam, two in Montgomery, and one in Vigo County, and at other points in Indiana. For many years he was the best known bridge builder in the western part of the state.

Beckwith claimed, "He built his first bridge in Indiana near the town of Rising Sun in 1850. He also built many bridges in Ohio and Kentucky. In 1854 he became superintendent of the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad and moved to Evansville where he lived for two years before giving up the position."

According to a picture of the old toll bridge over the Wabash at Clinton, the bridge was built in 1857 and lasted for 42 years, until 1899, when it was razed to make way for the "free" bridge.

The destruction of the old covered toll bridge spelled the end of an era in Clinton's history. Clinton had changed from the days of the big steamboats with their blaring whistles and the rafts loaded with cargo. River traffic was getting to be a thing of the past by the late 1890s.

Even those who were most sentimental about the old bridge realized it was in the way of progress. The outdated bridge with its center draw span to allow large boats to pass through was no longer needed.

Clinton's toll bridge wired, blown into river

IS OCT 12 1986

During the summer of 1897 two residents of Clinton, Dr. Henry Nebeker and William M. Hamilton, had a serious conversation about the need for a new free bridge to replace the old covered toll bridge over the Wabash River.

A few days later a petition was circulated asking the Vermillion County commissioners to call an election in Clinton Township for the purpose of voting on an appropriation of $25,000 toward the construction of a bridge at the foot of Blackman Street, one block from the toll bridge.

Naturally this proposal was opposed by Dr. J. H. Bogart, the toll bridge owner, who argued that it was a scheme to tax the township for the benefit of Main Street merchants. The farmers came out solidly against the appropriation. By election day the bitter campaign ended in less than the necessary 60 percent in favor.

As soon as sufficient time had elapsed, another petition was circulated and another election was ordered for Feb. 3, 1898. This time it was proposed to appropriate $12,000 by the township, and the county commissioners agreed to furnish the balance.

Those responsible for the success of this action were White, president; M. L. Casey, secretary; James McVey; J. C. Crane; J. N. Frist; Dr. E. A. Aikman; and James A. Wilson — all members of the bridge committee and the newly organized Business Men's Association of Clinton.

On a warm, sultry evening in August 1899, Bogart sat on the porch of his office on Mulberry Street. The last patients had gone home and the good doctor had a problem — how to tear down the toll bridge in which he had controlling interest.

He had sold the bridge to the county commissioners in February 1892 for $4,500. They had permitted him to retain the bridge until they got ready to build the new one. Another condition of the sale was that he had to destroy it to make room for the new free bridge.

A storm was brewing as he sat there watching the sky. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning flashed, followed by the boom of thunder, and Bogart sprang to his feet. His problem was solved! He walked across the street to the home of Henry Mills, a young electrician, to discuss his problem and get advice.

He planned to wire the bridge, then send a strong electrical current through the wires, intending to destroy the wooden bridge without risking injury to anyone.

It had occurred to him to use dynamite, of course, but pieces of timber would be flying in all directions and someone would be hurt. His plan to "electrocute" the bridge would allow the current to gradually burn away the thick planks and beams supporting the old covered bridge. The bridge would then collapse into the river.

Even though Bogart was sentimental about the old bridge, he realized that it was outmoded and must make way for progress. He hated to destroy the old landmark, but Clinton was changing.

Once Clinton had been a river town with packing as its chief industry. But river traffic ground to a halt in the 1890s. During river days, there was no Main Street. The business district was on Water Street, with its packing houses and wharves for the trade. There also were some fine homes on Water Street. The Wabash & Erie Canal ran parallel with the river in this area.

When the new coal industry came to Clinton, mine tipples sprang up like toadstools, and the boom was on. Men flocked into Clinton by the thousands to work in the mines. A new business district was opened by new young and progressive businessmen who wanted to see Clinton grow into a great mining center. These were the men who demanded a new bridge.

They contended that the old toll bridge was keeping trade from across the river away from Clinton. They believed out-of-town people would come to Clinton to shop if they did not have to pay toll.

Carl F. Balmer and Roscoe Russell helped Henry Mills wire the old bridge. They bored holes through the supporting timbers and drew wires through and around the holes. Weights were hung on the elements. Since electrical current wasn't as strong as it is now, the problem was to get enough voltage to burn through the planks.

By reversing the current, they stepped it up to a high amperage. This made the wires red hot, and in time the electricity cut the bridge into pieces so that the timber fell into the river in parts. The idea was to burn a span through the middle. This resulted in the span dropping in two pieces without burning the bridge. Not over 10 inches on each side of the plank was burned. Men with grappling hooks were stationed below in boats to salvage timber.

Balmer, an employee of the powerhouse at that time, was the man who started the generator for this momentous occasion. The generator's limit was only 1,100 volts.

The whole town turned out to see the event, and the river banks were thronged with spectators. Everybody wondered just what exactly was going to happen as many wild rumors had been circulated. Nobody knew for sure, because Bogart and Mills were not saying.

Early in the morning the current was turned on. The bridge was wired at the east end, and the draw span had been removed. The crowd waited patiently to see the show, but nothing happened. Then, good-naturedly, they began laughing and making fun of the whole affair.

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Soon, however, they smelled smoke and saw that the electricity was slowly burning through the stout planks and beams. In the afternoon the bridge started falling, and piece by piece the timbers hit the water with a splash. The men hired as salvage crews retrieved the timbers. The crowd went wild, whooping and yelling at the unusual sight.

By late afternoon the old covered toll bridge was no more. All that was left were the stone piers and abutments which were to be used as the foundation for the new bridge, which in 1986 is now about 130 years old.

Shortly after the bridge fell, the news spread like wildfire throughout the country. Newspapers and magazines ran articles on the unusual engineering feat. Electrical engineers from all over the world wrote to Clinton inquiring how it was done.

The old Clinton landmark passed into oblivion, but it went out in style, not with a whimper. Time had marched on, and covered bridges were no longer in style, especially toll bridges. Descendants of those who watched the bridge disappear probably would pay a toll to see it again.

Those who visit Parke County each fall to see the remaining covered bridges would appreciate the old Clinton bridge. Any traveler of the nation's highways is all too familiar with toll roads and bridges, so the circle has turned once again.

Ts FEB 22 1987

Sullivan doctor's diary reveals rugged frontier life

Clark, DOROTHY

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1845 Dr. Elijah D. Chambers came to New Lebanon, one of two pioneer villages in Gill Township, Sullivan County. Merom was the other.

Located in the western part of Sullivan County, this township was named for William Gill, the earliest settler, who came from Tennessee. William Burnett came from Kentucky about the same time. Other early pioneers of Gill Township were the families of Canary, Webb, Sherman, French, Reed, White and Hughes.

New Lebanon was settled in 1827 by Josiah Boone and Thomas Springer on land given by four men. Springer, James Mason, Jesse Haddon and Robert Burnett each gave 10 acres.

Chambers purchasd the practice of Dr. Robert Freeland. He began his study of medicine in 1841 in Pike County, Ind. At one time, a Dr. Davisson was his partner in New Lebanon.

Chambers and his wife, the former Christine H. O'Haver, had one son and two daughters. Chambers died in 1850, and only one daughter, Mrs. William Burnett, survived her parents.

Gill Township had been served by several physicians. First in 1837 by Freeland, followed by Chambers, Davisson, Dr. Nebinger, Dr. Harper, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Murphy and others.

By 1850 there were 181 persons living in the township. This number grew to 429 in 1882, and in the early days a doctor would make house calls no matter how far away or the hour of the day or night.

Sullivan County historian Dr. Maple described the early doctors. "Proper dress for physicians of prominence included a silk plug hat, a cutaway frock coat, and boots, and when you have a vision of him astride a mule, as was so often the case, coming down a mud lane, you have a vision of the dignity of the profession combating the hardships of pioneer days.

"They bled, puked and purged," said Maple. "They had bark of cinchonia, calomel, jalap, laudanum, sulphur, castor oil, epsom salts, a handful of tinctures and extracts, leeches, blisters and cupping instruments ... clinical thermometers were used by hospitals about 1866, but as they were 10 inches long and took five minutes to register, they could not be used by general practitioners."

Chambers' journal contained several unusual case histories along with his receipts for medicines, ailments of patients and his remuneration (if any), all written in his beautiful script.

On May 1, 1844, he "commenced boarding with Adam Kirkpatrick." On July 22, 1844, he "commenced boarding with Timothy O'Haver," and it was here he met and married his landlord's daughter.

In the 1840s the standard medical fee seemed to be $1 for a house call, and from $5 to $7 to deliver a baby, depending upon whether or not the new arrival turned out to be a boy.

Instead of hard money, his patients paid him with oats, corn (sold for 15 cents per bushel), hay, sugar, flour, butter (10 cents per pound), lumber, chickens, eggs (5 cents per dozen), beef (3 cents per pound), wheat (25 cents per bushel), fencing, or apples (25 cents per bushel).

Chambers was paid with a pine barrel worth 75 cents, water millins worth 8 cents each, shingles, cornmeal (25 cents per bushel), potatoes (50 cents per bushel), cider, candles (30 cents per dozen), molasses, (50 cents per gallon), a calf worth $2, and day labor worth 50 cents.

One patient collected outstanding notes from other patients to help pay his doctor bill. Another made the doctor a pair of shoes. Still another patient with a wagon hauled pork and wood to Carlisle for $1.25 the load.

At those prices a man would have to work all day on the doctor's farm at 50 cents a day to pay for one box of Sappington's Pills, one of the most popular medicines used at that time.

Chambers' lot was not all hard work and no pay. An entry in his journal dated January 1842 shows that he "stayed all night in Vincennes." His night's lodging, supper and breakfast amounted to $1.37. A deck of cards cost an additional 37 cents.

During his courting days there were frequent entries of purchases of new clothes, pantaloons, suspenders, boots, bottles of hair oil, tobacco, etc.

The alphabetically arranged names of Chambers' patients in 1846 amounted to a complete census of the residents of New Lebanon and the surrounding area. A pioneer doctor's life was rugged but rewarding.

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Fairbanks massacre

Present-day town named for officer who led wagon train

Clark, Dorothy
MAR 2 9 1987

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1984 Lawrence Clair DeBaun, then 84 years old, wrote down some of the stories of early days told to him by his grandfather, Josephus DeBaun. He told how the town of Fairbanks got its name, and the story of a massacre that took place about three miles west of the present town. The battleground where the ambush took place in 1812 was called Wagon Defeat Branch.

According to Grandpa DeBaun, "Lt. William Fairbanks was in charge of the wagon train carrying supplies from Vincennes to Fort Harrison, north of Terre Haute. The supplies were mainly meat and flour. They had to go through a low place some would call a draw, because the road was a winding one up along the Wabash River. The savage Indians were hidden and waiting for the convoy and ambushed it.

"Two men got away. One was named Black and the other Purdue. My Grandpa never stated their first names. Black ran a short way south and hid, Purdue ran north through the wilderness toward what used to be called the Brushy Pond (northeast of where the Indiana & Michigan Power Plant stands today). The pond was drained in later years.

"Two Indians ran after Purdue and finally one got to gaining on him. He stopped and turned around in time to see the Indian twirling his tomahawk around, getting ready to throw it, so he shot him. He didn't have time to reload, as the other Indian began to gain on him. Purdue gave the second Indian the slip, and hid under a large fallen tree. The second Indian lost him, but walked along the log that he was hiding under, finally giving up the chase and going back to where the massacre took place.

"In the meantime, Black hadn't gone too far south; he hid and later sneaked and crawled back to watch the savage Indians in their celebrations from the bank of the draw. They were really savages, it seemed. There were some women in the convoy that they killed and split open and then busted their heads in on the flour barrels and took the women's intestines and rolled them in flour and ate them. Now Purdue worked for my Grandpa's grandfather, and that was the story he told and that was handed down to me by Grandpa.

"Years later, in 1840, they platted a town about three miles east of the massacre and gave it the name of Fairbanks in honor of Lt. Fairbanks. There was talk about a monument in honor of the massacre, but the deal faded away. Could have been that politics got involved, for nothing ever became of it. There was another place about a mile west of the massacre they called Fairbanks Landing. That place was where Prairie Creek empties into the Wabash River. I never learned why it was named that, or if the steamboats stopped there or not.

"My Grandfather was a Civil War soldier in the Union Army. He was born about two miles north of Fairbanks in a log house (about where Carter Drake lives today). He told me that he slept in the loft and that a number of times during a blizzard in the winter, snow would sift through onto the bed covers. He told me that his father always kept a jug of whiskey under the bed, and every morning he would take a nip for the day. It was never touched again until the next morning.

"I have no record of when he enlisted in the Civil War, but he served through to the end. He served in Company E, 25th Indiana Infantry, and was in the bugle corps. In those days when a person was drafted, he could hire someone else to go in his place. My Grandpa was hired by a fellow named Jim Anderson, who lived in or around Fairbanks. He paid him $950.

"My Grandpa served with General Sherman, and he was with him on the 'March to the Sea.' He said he saw scenes you wouldn't believe. He said the most pitiful sight he ever saw on the march was the bloody battle at Murfreesboro, Tenn. He said he saw badly wounded soldiers frozen to the ground in their own blood on one battlefield.

"He told me that they had a 'scorched early policy' going through Georgia, about 60 miles wide and 300 miles long. They never left anything, destroyed all property, livestock, and all farm tools that could be used. Then, when the war was finally over, Sherman marched his army up the coast to Washington, D.C., for what they called the 'Grand Army Review.' That was a march down Pennsylvania Avenue. My Grandpa said his uniform wasn't in too good shape, as it was off up to his knees.

"He was finally discharged and came back home and Jim Anderson had the nerve to ask for his money back, because he didn't get killed going in his place. My Grandfather took the money and bought a farm about four miles northwest of Fairbanks. Some of the ground was cleared and some wasn't. Up northwest of his house, in the woods, he opened up a shaft coal mine. I don't remember how deep it was or how many worked in it. I do remember his telling me that there were two cabins up in the woods that the miners lived in. They sold coal to the settlers living around the area. I can't remember how long it was worked. The shaft is all filled up now, and the last time I was by it, around 20 years ago, it was just a small sunken place in the ground.

"I could never find out who got the fife my Grandpa played in the Army. I got the canteen that he carried and gave it to the Historical Society at Terre Haute. He also brought back a cannon ball, and it was used as a door stop for years. Where it went is a puzzle also.

"Now you very seldom ever got him to play his fife for you. He and I were pretty close and I had a hard time making the grade. He would play it some when no one was around. I was born and raised a little over a quarter of a mile across the field, and some times on still evenings in the summer, when sound carries, we could hear him playing different tunes.

"So, in my later years, I have seen lots of changes around here. This is a true story that has been handed down through the family to me."

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Village history

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Clark, Dorothy

'Man's field,' Lena settled as milltown,

Ts JAN 24 1988

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The only two villages in Jackson Township, Parke County, were Lena and Mansfield.

Mansfield is the older, laid out by Judge Samuel Gookins of Terre Haute.

James Kelsey's log cabin was the first in the unbroken wilderness of "man's field," but it marked the finest mill site on the solid rock bed of Big Raccoon Creek.

The mill was constructed here about 1820, give or take a year either way. Thomas Woolverton, a landowner in Union Township in 1820, helped to raise the mill before departing for a year back in Virginia. Five years later he returned to find the mill in operation.

There were so few white men in the area that Indians were pressed into helping build the 30-foot square mill. It was owned by Kelsey and his partners Dickson, Gookins and Gen. G. K. Steele, but later fell into the hands of Jacob Rohm. It was torn down and another mill was built on the original site in 1880.

The post office was established in 1825 with Dickson as postmaster. Mail came from Terre Haute. Steel opened a store in 1829 and became owner of the mill property in 1838, running both businesses until 1846.

Mansfield's claim to fame in the Wabash Valley happened before the Civil War. The ladies of the village and surrounding county objected to all forms of intemperance and made open war upon liquor sales.

Mrs. Samuel Johnston, one of the leaders in this whiskey rebellion, led the march of irate women who rolled barrels of booze into the streets and spilled the contents. The ladies were victorious, and Mansfield streets were free of dust for a spell.

Later, another saloon was started in a building standing on the bank of the creek. One night, citizens hitched oxen to the structure and pulled it into the creek. The rushing current of Big Raccoon did the rest. This stopped the sale of liquor, even in drug stores, for several years.

The town of Lena in the southeast corner of Jackson Township, was platted in 1870 by Robert King. It was a station on the Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad and shipped immense quantities of lumber and staves cut from the surrounding forests.

Adjoining Lena on the south was Marysville, in Clay County, but both became one town. J.B. Cochran, who lived between, was credited as being the oldest resident of both places. He was the first merchant and postmaster, railroad agent and express agent.

Other firsts were Thornton Wilson, blacksmith; William Girton, shoemaker; and Hasty & Sons, millers. A wealthy landowner and coal operator from Chicago, Dr. J. H. Rauch, is credited with promoting the new village. He improved the streets, graded roads, made brick and mined coal.

A Rockville resident, Xenia Garrigus, shared her memories of Mansfield with me when she was 90 years old. She had lived all of her life in Parke County. Her parents had a 60-acre farm in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood. Her great-grandparents were among the first settlers near Mansfield, "a bit outside the few log cabins around the mill."

Her father died in 1903, but much of her historical information came from visits to William Kemper, her father's friend and owner of a general store. His family also were early settlers. He could

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remember when the village was called Dickson's Mill.

According to Garrigus, it was Sark Barton's saloon that lost its liquor supply when the irate women rolled out the barrels.

It was old Dr. Hamilton who opened a saloon on the creek bank. At noon, April 25, 1866, the same group of women gathered for their afternoon's entertainment of tearing the weatherboarding from the building before hitching up a yoke of oxen to the upper corner of the saloon.

But the women could not get the oxen to move until their owner finished his sack lunch. He picked up his goad and spoke to the team, which then obligingly finished the demolition. These women carried axes and hatchets with them on this crusade. They chopped out the tops of barrels and casks.

Garrigus remembers growing wheat to sell at Mansfield Mill. Part was reserved for family flour, and when the menfolk were busy, young Xenia was told to hitch up Old Morgan and go to the mill to get flour for her mother.

Old Morgan would trot along until they neared a big spring along the road. Here he would stop and wait for Xenia to get out and loosen the rein so he could drink his fill.

The horse knew exactly where to stop in front of the mill. Bags of Big Domino Flour would be loaded in the wagon, and Old Morgan would step off smartly for home. He really didn't need any help.

By 1830, according to one county history, there were possibly 25 families living in Jackson Township. At an election in that year, only 32 votes were cast.

Among the pioneers were Thomas W. Moore, Joseph and John Coombs, Mahalan Stark, James Pursley, Hugh Vinzant, Presley Tyler, John Young, Stephen Mannon, Samuel Johnson and Solomon Garrigus.

Following the Panic of 1837, migration to this area stopped, but following the Civil War until 1880, population soared to 1,442 only to slowly decline before World War I.

Coal-mining days in Dugger yield plenty of stories

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Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Derell Blake of Dugger was reminded of his early memories of coal-mining days in that area when he read one of my earlier columns.

Blake's youth was overshadowed by coal mines and miners. His father worked in the mines for 46 years. There is nothing so traumatic for a miner's family than to wait at the entrance of a mine shaft after an explosion until the bodies of the dead and injured are brought to the surface. The anguished cries and heart-wrenching sobs of family and friends are never forgotten.

"The miner had little to boast about," Blake said, "except for his strong back. It was not surprising that another of his favorite pastimes was fighting." When things got dull, someone would walk into a crowded saloon and announce, "I can whip anyone here."

After a man had established himself as the toughest of the tough, he would search out new opponents to conquer.

Hearing of someone in a nearby town who had fought all takers and won, the local tough would harness his horse and hook up his buggy to travel 20 miles or more to another block town.

Making inquiries as to where the strong man lived, he would seek out the house and knock on the door. When the man answered, the miner would say, "I hear you're the best man in these parts." The resident would say, matter-of-factly, "That's right."

The challenger would say, "I believe I'm better." The two would retire to some quiet spot and proceed to beat each other to a pulp, or until one was declared the victor.

When the fight was over and the blood was washed off, the two would go out and get roaring drunk together.

When Blake was young, a retired mine blacksmith was his barber. His story of the Hungarian immigrant who came to America, leaving behind an expectant wife, was a tragic one. His plan was to work and save for as long as he needed, and then return to his homeland so that he and his family could enjoy the fruits of his labor.

The barber-blacksmith observed the man as he got a job at a local underground mine and set up housekeeping. He arranged with the company to care for their mules if he could live in the barn. The next concern was food. When he quizzed the owner of the general store about prices, the grocer offered him neck bones from the butcher's block. Stripped of 95 percent of their meat, a peck sack cost 5 cents or 10 cents. They were usually given to good customers for the pet dog.

The Hungarian found that boiling them in a huge pot of water would make a sort of soup, enough to last a whole week or until the concoction became rancid, whichever came first.

His clothes were mostly those salvaged from those thrown away by other miners. His soap was the sliver thrown away in the miners' bath house. He worked and lived on a pauper's level for 12 years.

In the meantime he sent all his earnings back to Hungary where his wife was to keep it in trust for his return. Shortly before he planned to return to his native land, he wrote to his wife in anticipation of seeing her and the child he had never seen.

She answered his letter by return mail, advising him not to make the trip. It seems she had taken a lover some years before and the two had been living quite well. His money had been spent as it was received.

When this devastating letter arrived, the young miner's problem was made worse by the fact that he could hardly speak English, he had made no friends while he lived in seclusion, and there was no one to turn to for help.

The next morning the mule drivers discoverd their mules had not been harnessed. They found the man lying in the manger with a straight razor in his hand, his throat cut from ear to ear.

The barber-blacksmith should have charged double for that haunting tale of coal-mining in Dugger.

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Early Clay County times simple

MAR 07 1993

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1883, Elias Cooprider delivered a speech before the Middlebury Literary Society on the subject of "Early Times in the Settlement of Clay County."

His talk was reviewed in the Clay City Independent, published by William Travis and republished again by William Lankford. It bears repeating.

Cooprider was born in Harrison County on Nov. 23, 1810, the oldest of 15 children, 11 of whom were living in 1883. His parents emigrated to Indiana in March 1822 and settled on the west side of the Eel River at the Kossuth Bluff.

They landed March 6 after traveling that day from Smith's ferry on White River all the way through the snow and slush. Their party consisted of two horses, carrying his mother and Elias, the smaller children, and all their goods, including some meal, with father afoot, driving five cows, accompanied by two dogs and carrying his gun.

Their supply of meal was soon exhausted, but they had bear, deer, turkeys and squirrels in abundance. They learned from the Delaware and Pottawattomie Indians that turkey meat could be substituted for bread. The salt supply ran out, and the Indians consoled them by saying they went for months at a time without salt.

In 1823 they cleared ground for their home. His father was ill, and Elias and his mother had to do the work. After the corn was planted and "coming into ears," they had to protect it from the turkeys by day and the raccoons by night.

Elias remembered that he "lay out there in that patch of corn, by the side of a fire, accompanied by my dog, many more nights than I had fingers and toes."

To do their milling, they had to take a little corn and go to Craig's mill, at the mouth of Eel River. He waited two days to get his cornmeal on the first trip, and worked for the mill owner during that time to pay for his boarding.

The Coopriders made a mortar and pestle for pounding the corn and reducing it to meal. Later Joe Griffith built the first hand mill in their neighborhood, operated by two men at a time.

Then they began raising potatoes, using the pulp as a flour substitute. Mixed with meal it made excellent biscuits. The Coopriders went over on the Wabash and bought a few bushels of wheat, and in the fall of 1827, planted the first wheat ever to grow in the virgin soil of Clay County. His old grandmother came out from Pennsylvania to live with them and longed for "wheat cake."

The next fall they sowed wheat, but in January 1828, snow fell more than knee deep. It froze and thawed and then froze hard into March. The wheat grew, but all turned to "cheat." Grandma cried like a child. Cooprider went to the Ohio River and brought back a hundred-weight of flour, another first for the area.

He told about learning from the Indians how to dress buckskins for breeches and jackets. The beautiful fawnskin when cut on the bias made a really aristocratic jacket.

There was no muslin nor cotton fabric of any kind to be had, so something else had to be found to make shirts. In the bottom lands they found a rank nettle that had a fibrous surface covering resembling that of flax. When this weed ripened and broke down in the fall, it was gathered, then broke, hackled and scutched as they would flax.

This was then spun and afterwards woven into cloth out of which they made shirts. There was no wool nor leather to be had for socks and shoes, so they took the fur of the possum and raccoon, mixed, carded and spun it, and then knit it into socks.

Without leather, they took the dressed skin of the groundhog and the neck of the buckskin for moccasins, stitched together with buckskin thongs. As the soles wore down, they repaired them with bacon skin.

These shoes made a track unlike any worn today. People were known by their tracks in the snow. Old man Vanmeter's track was nearly round, almost as round as a bear's.

The greatest inconvenience in wearing such shoes was the want of a brake in the way of a heel. Going up and down hill they had to be very careful how they stepped or one or other end would be almost certain to strike the ground.

Cooprider told his audience that the first money he ever had was a 6½-cent piece paid him for a day's dropping corn. Money was scarce then. He owned little in the way of property. All his effects, including his new wife, as far as bulk was concerned, he could have carried on his shoulders, as all together would not have weighed 300 pounds.

He and his wife went to work together many a day on the clearing, and worked many a night until 10 or 11 o'clock. After their first child, Jackson, was born, they had to take the baby out with them and cradle him in a sugar trough while they grubbed and burned brush.

In those days of no schools, no society, no civil institutions, children were brought up to be honest, honorable and hospitable. Children were taught that most troubles among neighbors grew out of one's trespassing on another's rights or privileges. They were taught to respect their own, never carry weapons, and fusses and quarrels were arbitrated and settled peaceably without festering.

Clark, Dorothy

'Old Clay' canoed up Eel River

Kentuckian named Clay County for a Virginian

Ts APR 1 4 1981

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The oldest town in Clay County is Bowling Green, established about 1818 as the first trading post between Spencer and Terre Haute. It was named for the town of Bowling Green in Carolina County, Virginia.

Daniel Harris, known as the "Father of Clay County," was a Kentucky native known as "Old Clay" because he had named the county in honor of his idol, Henry Clay, when it was created in 1825.

Accompanied by his wife, Harris was supposed to have been the first white man to paddle a canoe up Eel River.

He hired an Indian guide to take them by the shortest route to the White River country. The party set out on foot with Harris carrying his trusty rifle. He was a hunter and trapper.

Becoming suspicious of the guide, he told his wife he would shoot the Indian if they did not reach their destination that day. Luckily for the red man, they reached White River at a point near where Spencer is now located.

Here Harris constructed a canoe, and the couple traveled to the mouth of Eel River and up that stream to a site later occupied by Jacob Luther. They camped for a time and entered the adjacent land, later known as the Leavitt of Connelly place. This was sometime between 1820 and 1825.

Harris lived here at the time of his first election to the General Assembly from Owen County in 1824. Some years later he moved across the river and was again elected, and re-elected to the state legislature in 1834-35.

Described as a short, stout man with defective eyes, Harris wore a hat with a leather top. He drank a mixture of half coffee and half whiskey with his meals. It is believed he died at the age of 80 years in 1850.

The first white man to ever enter Clay County was David Thomas in 1812. He purchased bottom land, with corn, from the Eel River Tribe of Pottawatomie Indians whose village sat on the right as you enter town.

Pioneer Elias Cooprider could remember the blighting frost in the fall of 1830. Following a very mild, pleasant fall, the frost of Nov. 28 was so severe it killed grass and tree foliage in a few hour's time. Hickory nuts and acorns were so loosened by the sudden freeze they fell like hailstones in the woods.

Cooprider could always remember the date of this unusual weather because it was the Sunday he made his first trip through the woods to visit the young lady he married a year later.

A family with several marriageable daughters had just arrived from Kentucky, and all the young bachelors were eager to meet them. Cooprider was one of the founders of the town of Middlebury, Harrison Township, Clay County, Ind.

The 11 townships in Clay County included Washington (named for the first president); Harrison (for the last governor of the territory); Posey; Jackson (for President Andrew Jackson); Dick Johnson (for vice president); Van Buren (president); Cass (Lewis Cass, soldier and statesman); Lewis (John Lewis, pioneer who could play "Yankee Doodle" with a whetstone on a mowing scythe); Sugar Ridge (named for sugar maple trees); Brazil (so little city of Brazil could carry an unusual name); and Perry (naval hero Oliver Perry).

Carrithers Township, named for Alexander Carrithers, the only Clay County soldier killed in the Mexican War, was organized after that war, but existed only five or six years.

When the canal and feeder dam were completed in Clay County, the territory lost so many people the township was dropped from the map in December 1853. The land was given back to the townships it had been taken from originally — Lewis, Perry, Harrison and Washington.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Bountiful land

#Clark, Dorothy

Early travelers praise natural resources of Wabash Valley

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Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

As many as 33 travelers, men of science, geographers, botanists, surveyors, and men of religion and politics, all roamed this favored place, the Wabash Valley. Their diaries and daybooks cover the years from 1778 to 1833.

"Sullivan County consists of a beautiful, fertile, well-watered tract of country.

"Fort Harrison prairie is a most delightful tract containing about 22,000 acres. The woodland to the east of this prairie is an elevated tract of rich soil. Springs and streams flowing from it are numerous.

"If my conjectures are correct, these prairies will be sources of abundance through distant ages."

Always before in the westward push of American pioneers, settlers had followed a conventional pattern — chop down the trees, put up log cabins, build rail fences, girdle more trees and while they deadened, grub underbrush, burn off dead thickets, and slowly clear a field where corn hills could stand between stumps.

But here on the prairies, nine out of 10 settlers found an open plain, so barren of timber it frightened them — no stone or lumber for fences or houses or barns — no wood for fuel.

A proper organized society was impossible as long as the want of fencing material compelled people to form broken and scattered settlements on the margin of groves and streams while all between was a solitary waste.

The man who could devise cheap fencing and improve schools would take his place in western history. The issue was between two theories of agriculture — the monopolistic cattlemen working to keep the public range open so their herds might graze on the unfenced and untaxed sea of grass, and the small farmers, the grain-growers, the anti-land monopolists, demanding enclosed fields and intensive farming.

Schools, rail fences, cattle and grain were all bound together in the struggle. In August when the coarse prairie grass grew dry, stock raisers of Illinois rounded up their steers from the far-flung range and either drove them to market, or, more often, sold them to drovers who swept through the country heading eastward to Ohio where grass-fed steers were stuffed with hay and grain and later driven to seaboard markets.

In 1841, the "Prairie Farmer" advised the Osage Orange Hedge as "the stoutest hedge in the world, through which neither man or animals can pass."

Timber was so scarce on the prairie that the typical "snake" fence was regarded as a waster of rails. The post-and-rail fence was more economical because it took fewer rails. Rail fences cost $100 a mile at that time.

In 1850 Osage Orange Hedge plants cost $25 for a mile of fencing and would last for many years. Wooden fences cost $300 a mile and would be gone in 12 years.

The wire fence as early as 1845 was being used, and by 1848 was considered successful for all stock except hogs.

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Clay City sketch

Booklet describes stores, history, people and products

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Clark Dorothi

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

At the turn of the century, a small booklet titled "Illustration and Biographical Sketches, People and Places of Interest of Clay City, Indiana" was published by Z.E. Keller of the Clay City Democrat.

Its 15 pages were crammed with glowing descriptions of "this beautiful city, the second business place of Clay County, situated 26 miles southeast of Terre Haute, on the Evansville & Indianapolis Railroad."

Surveyed in June 1873, it was recorded under the name of "Markland." The four original streets were Maple and Clay, running east and west, and Market and Main, running north and south, all 65 feet wide.

Eli and E.F. Cooprider were among the first to erect dwellings in the village. Eli built the first store rooms in the northwest part and then stocked them with general merchandise.

The second store was owned by the Burger Brothers, partners until 1882 when each one went into business on his own. In 1900 S.M. Burger established "The Market Store" and business boomed, so he employed 14 clerks and opened a branch store in Elnora.

H. Grismer & Co. came next with a drygoods business and built a store in the west part of town. John Long & Son began business in 1877.

According to the booklet, Clay City boasted 2,000 inhabitants in 1900. It was surrounded with "almost inexhaustible timber resources, a clay superbly adapted to the manufacture of tile and building brick, and unlimited coal with veins as much as seven feet thick and thousands of acres of the famous Brazil Block Coal."

Pictured was the First Methodist Church, built in 1897 at the cost of $10,500. There were 300 members in 1904, and the Rev. C.D. Wilson was the minister.

H.H. Asbury, M.R. Goshorn and Jacob Travis served on the Board of Education in 1904. The six-room, two story-brick schoolhouse was located in the east part of town.

Founded by Byron & Black, the Clay City Flour Mills dated back to 1890. They were succeeded by Moyer & Willen in 1901. With a capacity of 100 barrels a day, they produced such brands as Peerless, Perfection, Daisy and Pond Lily.

In July 1903, W.H. Moyer sold his half interest to John Willen, father of Charles F. Willen, the junior partner, and the mill management became Willen & Son.

The next month they hired J.A. Lawrenson, a miller employed for 20 years by Willard Kidder of Terre Haute.

George M. Williamson, manager of Bartlett & Kuhn Elevator built in 1903, had been in the grain business in Clay City since 1877.

The Clay City Brick & Clay Co. had manufactured sand-mould bricks until May 1902, when the plant was destroyed by fire. New machinery was installed in the rebuilt plant, and stiff mud bricks, hollow bricks and drain tile were manufactured.

In place of the old style pug mill, they installed the modern dry-pan pulverizer. Daily capacity of this plant was 30,000 brick. Officers were J.P. Willen, president; J.B. Simons, vice president; Marshall Lafferty, secretary-treasurer; and J.C. Carlyle, superintendent.

A photo of C.F. Nickey, proprietor of the Clay City Machine Shops, showed him at his desk. He was considered a mechanical genius and inventor. He had patented a number of useful machines, including the "Nickey Lifting & Conveying Apparatus" used in canning factories. Nickey was born in 1869 in Whitley County, Ind.

Henry Moseman was born in Owen County in 1860 and came to Clay City in 1896. He became manager of "The Exchange," one of the leading drygoods stores in Clay City owned by Moseman, Weber and Schauwecker.

The new Main Street Livery Barn plus a hardware store were owned in 1904 by Schauwecker and Crabtree.

Early in 1875, D.C. Middlemas came to Clay City and opened a hardware store. After his death in 1901, his three sons, David, John and James, continued the business.

The firm of Travis & Travis, dealers in hardware, furniture and farm implements, was established opposite the post office in 1903 by James and Silas Travis.

The Brosius Dry Goods Co. was opened in Clay City in 1899. They also had stores in Brazil and Carbon. The store manager was F. Schromyer.

The Ideal Clothing Store was opened in late 1899 by James E. Conley with Charles Robinson and Samuel Fisher in charge.

J.W. Hanhour started his drug store in 1881. Born in Clay County in 1831, he was in the drug business at Harmony and Middlebury before moving to Clay City.

W.H. Guirl founded his lumber business in 1892. His sawmill had a capacity of 10,000 feet per day, and he employed 50 men.

Born in 1867, W.F. Wahner began his trade at age 14 as a granite and marble worker in Terre Haute. He located in Clay City in 1900 and opened a marble works.

Ovid Pinney, proprietor of the Clay City Tin Shop, was born in Cincinnati in 1845. He had been a tin worker for 43 years when the booklet was published.

Located near the depot was MuCullough & Burroughs Livery & Feed Barns.

The Clay City Telephone Co., established in 1899, had 200 subscribers according to Howard James, manager.

Listed as physicians in Clay City were Drs. Wolfe, M.A. Freed, C.B. Collins, C.E. Baker, and H.O. Woodrow. However, the last two were veterinarians.

Dentists were J.D. and R.A. English. The undertaker was Charles Hurst.

The barbers were Martin Crosly and John Burnham, son of J.A. and Angeline Burnham, pioneer citizens of Clay City.

C.C. Fisher, who clerked in the Star Grocery at Terre Hatue from 1872 to 1879, was postmaster of Clay City in 1904.

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